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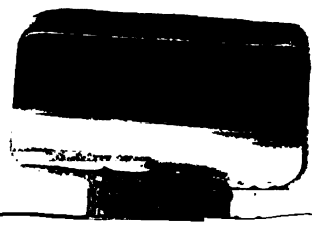

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NARRATIVE OF A RESIDENCE

AT THE COURT OF

MEER ALI MOORAD;

WITH

Wild Sports in the Valley of the Indus.

PEABODY LIBRARY, GEORGETOWN, MASS.

BY EDWARD ARCHER LANGLEY,

LATE CAPTAIN, MADRAS CAVALRY.

H. H. MEER ALI MOORAD.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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TO THE MEMORY

OF

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CONQUEROR OF SINDH,

ALIKE DISTINGUISHED

FOR PROFOUND MILITARY GENIUS,

AND

HIGH ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES,

AS EXEMPLIFIED

IN HIS GOVERNMENT OF THAT PROVINCE,

THE MILITARY POLICE OF WHICH

HAS RECENTLY SERVED AS A MODEL

FOR THE POLICE FORCE OF CENTRAL INDIA,

THIS WORK IS

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

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NARRATIVE OF A RESIDENCE

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CHAPTER I.

Rapid Travelling—Semmering Alp—Gratz—Trieste—Meer Ali Moorad—Engaged as Secretary to His Highness—Mercantile Establishments—Opera House—Austrian Lloyds—Commerce of Trieste—Protestant Church—Boschetto—Hotels—Corfu—Sappho's Leap—Our Fellow-Passengers—Alexandria—The Consulate—Cairo—Divine Service—Fall of Delhi—Postal Department—Electric Telegraph—Antecedents of Meer Ali Moorad.

I HAD just settled my family in London, having quitted India, never intending to return, when I was pressed by a distinguished parliamentary friend to accompany him for the purpose of meeting an Eastern sovereign, Meer Ali Moorad Khan Bahader, Ameer of Sindh, in whom we both felt an interest, and who was in some

difficulties at Trieste, on his way back to India. Our departure from London was sudden, it having been occasioned by a telegram from the British Ambassador at Vienna to the India Board, and the object of our journey necessitating rapid travel, we lingered so little on the way, that we reached Trieste in a hundred and twenty-two hours, although detained by business an entire day at Vienna.

Almost every one is now so familiar with the principal routes from London to Trieste, thanks to Murray's hand-books, that a minute description of the one we travelled, viâ Cologne, Dresden, and Vienna, would be superfluous; but I cannot forbear a passing notice of the railroad over the Semmering Alp between the Austrian capital and Gratz, as a wondrous triumph of engineering skill, being carried over parts of a mountain, where a few years ago the construction of an ordinary road was deemed impracticable. The entire route, indeed, from the foot of the Alp to the vicinity of Trieste, passes through a succession of the most picturesque scenery imaginable, the railway following the course of one bright stream after another, and those Styrian streams are perhaps the brightest

in Europe. The fine old city of Gratz, the capital of Lower Styria, is also in itself well worthy of notice, and is the residence of many foreigners who have been tempted there to fix themselves by the beauty of the spot, the facility of obtaining education for their families, and the cheapness of living; the latter advantage has, however, been gradually diminishing by the presence of strangers. Nothing indeed can be more striking than the appearance of Gratz, which stands in an extensive plain, from which rises abruptly a lofty pyramidal rock, precipitous on all sides, upon the summit of which towers the citadel. This commands a magnificent view of the valley of the Muhr, teeming with grain and fruit up to the far-distant hill-sides, which, as we passed, appeared clothed almost to their summits with the vine and olive, with peaceful hamlets in every sheltered nook and handsome châteaux on all sides. Passing rapidly on through the same description of scenery, the population appearing more numerous as we advanced, the smaller rivers more rapid, and mills and factories increasing in number,—an autumn evening closed in upon us, and we reached Trieste considerably after nightfall.

It is unnecessary here to detail the circumstances that caused our journey to this city, but such of our readers as have any curiosity on the subject may gratify it by perusing a Blue Book containing the report of a Parliamentary Inquiry which took place in March, 1858. Suffice it therefore to say that on arrival we located ourselves in that admirable hostel, the Hôtel de la Ville, which is, I believe, the best of the many excellent ones in Trieste, and immediately intimated our advent to His Highness Meer Ali Moorad, to whom we paid our respects on the following morning. The Meer's delight at seeing us was unbounded, for, as he observed, "he then knew that he had friends around him," and his situation had previously been gloomy enough, his funds being exhausted, and neither himself nor his attendants understanding any European language. It thus became necessary for some European gentleman, well acquainted with Oriental languages, to accompany the Meer back to India; and as His Highness wished me to accept the office of secretary, I was persuaded to do so, [having been previously in his employ, and feeling a warm interest for him,] on the understanding that I should be allowed to return

at the expiration of a twelvemonth. In fact, I did not at all fancy the duty, for India was at that time in a very disturbed state, and I was quite alive to the hazard of a residence amongst a fanatical population, many amongst whom would consider it a meritorious act to assassinate a Kafir, though the murderer should pay the penalty of such deed by the forfeiture of his own life, and had I been so murdered I am very sure that the Meer would have punished the murderer with instant death; but Mahomedan fanatics care not for consequences. It was, however, represented to me that as the Government were anxious for the immediate presence of the Meer in his own country, my accompanying His Highness would be agreeable to the authorities in Cannon Row, so I accepted the office of dry-nurse, putting my trust in Providence and a good revolver. Anxious, however, as the Meer was to proceed at once to India, we were obliged to remain at Trieste for a fortnight, awaiting the arrival of funds from England, though our stay was rendered agreeable by the attentions of Mr Consul Raven, the Rev. Mr Collins, the English chaplain,

and Mr Brice, one of the leading British merchants at Trieste.

Trieste is the principal seaport of the Austrian Empire, and three imperial ships of war were lying there during our stay. The city is built on the slopes that run down to the margin of its magnificent harbour, at the head of the Gulf of Venice. The blue Friuli mountains shelter it to landward, and its curved bay, seen by the light of an Adriatic moon, is only second in loveliness to that of Naples. The commerce of Trieste has vastly increased since the completion of the railway from Vienna, and it promises at no distant period to become one of the first commercial cities in Europe, as the trade which had passed previously through the Baltic, now to a great extent passes direct from Vienna to Trieste, the mercantile establishments of which city bespeak its opulence, the shops being quite as handsome and well stocked as those of Vienna. The foreign residents, who are numerous, have established an excellent Club; the Opera House is a very handsome building, and so well supported as to be able occasionally to afford the services of first-rate

artistes from the several capitals of Europe; and the Austrian Lloyds' Establishment has a world-wide reputation, only second, indeed, to that of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

The immense commerce of this city attracts all nations to its port; in fact, it may be considered a Continental Liverpool, for the Austrian Lloyds' Company alone possesses a fleet of fifty-eight steamers. The want of an English school, which is still a want, would be greatly felt by the numerous offspring of the engineers of the Austrian Lloyds' steamers, were it not for the benevolent kindness of their excellent pastor, the Rev. Mr Collins, who affords them instruction. The Protestant church is a neat little edifice, with a congregation of about eighty persons. We learned from Mr Collins that he is on excellent terms with the Roman Catholic priesthood, the head of whom, a high ecclesiastic, having intimated his wish to be allowed to witness the Protestant service, was invited to attend, and expressed himself greatly pleased with its solemnity.

The only drives about Trieste are along the margin of the sea, and through the Boschetto,

which latter is the public promenade of the place, and every Sunday afternoon is thronged with gay visitors from the city and its environs. Immediately on passing the northern gate you enter a long narrow valley, which follows the course of a sparkling stream into the Friuli mountains. Nothing can be more lovely than this valley, its slopes on either hand being dotted with pretty cottages and covered with gardens. The air of this charming spot is ever laden with the perfume of flowers, myriads whereof fill every nook of the valley which supplies the flower market of Trieste with its choicest bouquets, and the bouquets of that city possess, I think, a sweetness peculiarly their own. The slope on the right, about a mile or rather more in length, is called the Boschetto, or shrubbery, which is laid out as a public promenade in somewhat formal avenues of beech and witch-elm, with numerous little arbours *à la Cremorne*, and here and there a small restaurant, with a grand café in the centre. Here of a Sunday afternoon all Trieste is assembled, from the highest in rank and station to the humblest citizens, and a gayer scene can hardly be imagined. Fine bands of music

contribute to the delight of this music-loving people, and all seem in their several spheres to possess the faculty of enjoyment in an eminent degree. Lovely women of all nations throng the walks, attired in the latest Parisian fashions, and perhaps the most strikingly beautiful are to be found there amongst the dark-eyed daughters of Israel, radiant with that loveliness peculiar to their race. The fair Greeks too are as remarkable for their beauty as for the picturesque elegance of their national costume; even Greek women of the lower order, with their fine hair braided into the folds of their turbans, and their open-laced bodices and sleeves, were strikingly attractive in appearance. I must not too omit mention of the quaint attire of the Styrian peasantry. That of the females consists of a short blue skirt, with crimson border; a white bodice, and a coloured apron, with the Styrian head-dress of white linen, the ends falling behind trimmed with lace; massive ear-rings and neck-chain with cross; white stockings and high-heeled shoes with rosettes; which costume would make a pretty fancy dress, or one for a village scene in an opera. Mingled with these many varieties of costume, were

Austrian officers of all arms, in every kind of uniform, besides numerous Greeks and Turks, with here and there "a wild Albanian kirtled to the knee." The Albanians are certainly splendid-looking fellows, and the national costume sets off their beauty of face and form; the flowing *juklanilla*, buskins with golden taches, collarless and open-sleeved jackets of velvet wrought with gold, and handsome girdles, form altogether a costume unmatched for taste and elegance; but all classes amongst the promenaders, whether high or low, Contadini or Cittadini, appeared in the highest state of enjoyment, though nothing could be more orderly than their conduct on the occasion.

The foreign residents at Trieste mostly occupy villas outside the city, and adhere pretty much to their national habits; but the Triestians themselves appear particularly partial to a coffee-house life, for families, as well as bachelors, very generally dine at the public tables, both to enjoy society and avoid the expense and trouble of an establishment, although at the sacrifice of privacy and what we English should consider domestic comfort, which to them, however, is unknown. After dinner those who

do not attend the opera adjourn to a neighbouring café, and during the summer months pass their evenings chiefly in the open air. Every café, and about every sixth house is a café, is surrounded of an evening by a multitude of small tables, whereat their customers are supplied with ices and effervescing drinks; and these entertainments *al fresco* are attended by ladies of the first rank and position in the city. Upon the whole, we found Trieste a very agreeable halting place, thanks to the kindness of our English friends, who introduced us as honorary members to the club and reading-rooms; and the accommodation at the Hôtel de la Ville, where we resided, was all that could be desired, unless, perhaps, in the item of beds,—and German beds are the most uncomfortable in the world, a stout gentleman finding his couch as deficient in width, as a tall one does in length, and the coverings are proportionately scanty, so that the valedictory salutation of "*felice notte Signor*" by the pretty camarilla who lighted us to our rooms, was a vile mockery in our case; but we soon got accustomed to the inconvenience, and all else in the hotel was the perfection of comfort.

Here, however, I shall bid adieu to Trieste, which place we left on the 10th October, 1857, in the Bombay steamer, a fine vessel of 950 tons, and 400-horse power; and a very pleasant passage we had along the eastern coast of the Adriatic; past Dalmatia and Albania, to Cherukeira, the capital of Corfu, where we merely stopped to coal. The scenery of this coast is exceedingly wild; the hills barren, save a scanty covering of scrubby brushwood. Corfu is supposed to be the isle ot Calypso, though some attribute the honour to Fano, others to Gozo. Further on lie the Acroceraunian mountains, on the Albanian shore, and the Ionian Sea rippled around us. At Corfu were supposed to be the gardens of Alcinous, and in that island blossom naturally the rhododendron, almond, cypress, and olive, in the greatest possible luxuriance. The Corfu ladies of the upper class dress in the European style, and dress in bad taste; but the servant girls continue their picturesque national costume, their hair being braided into the folds of their turbans, with open-laced bodices and sleeves. St Spiridion is the patron Saint of the island, and his body, dry as a mummy, is, I was told,

paraded through the streets in a chair on occasion of great festivals; when sick people, and especially sick children, are brought out and placed before the Saint, in full confidence that such mummeries will contribute to their recovery. The English rule seems anything but popular at Corfu; at least, so I judge from the remarks of the Greek gentlemen who accompanied us to Alexandria.

After leaving the coast of Albania, and passing Cape Leucas, the scene of hapless Sappho's fatal leap, we passed Ithaca on our left, and Cephalonia, the largest of the Ionian isles, on our right. In Cephalonia, Sir Charles Napier, when appointed Military Resident of the island, in 1822, had first an opportunity of displaying his extraordinary administrative ability on an extended scale. He found all departments urgently in want of reform, and at once set about its introduction. He constructed vast public works, made roads through the mountains, introduced improvements in agriculture by a model farm, assisted the indigent cultivators with loans, opened roads to the markets for their produce, constructed quays, erected lighthouses, and improved the harbour,

drained marshes, cleared away ruins and opened wide thoroughfares, strengthened the courts of law, and organised a military police, whose vigilance rendered them the terror of all evil-doers. Such were some of the works that Sir Charles Napier carried out during the period of his government of Cephalonia. Our party was a very pleasant one,—a nephew of Sir Lytton Bulwer, a Bengal civilian, a Bombay officer, late of Bashi Bazooks, and since highly distinguished in India, a British merchant, returning to the Mauritius, and ourselves. We had also a very lady-like Wallachian, a daughter of Prince Ghika, who spoke French and German perfectly, and two German ladies, who only spoke a few words of Italian, but uttered their "grazias" in so sweet a tone, in return for a chair, that one could not regret the sacrifice for their sakes, albeit the deck was hardish. Leaving Candia, the ancient Crete, on our left, we looked our last on Europe, and early in the morning of the sixth day were in sight of Alexandria.

This port is now so well known to a large portion of the English public that to offer any description would be absolute waste of time.

I shall therefore state that I conveyed my royal master to the principal hotel, and having provided for his personal comforts at once proceeded to the Consulate, being charged with a despatch for Mr Green, our then acting Consul-General, to whom I feel greatly indebted for his kind aid in having the Meer's baggage, regarding which there was a difficulty, quickly passed through the Custom House. The Consul-General moreover supplied me with the last newspapers, and those from India were at the moment of intense interest, as giving the latest news regarding the siege of Delhi. From Mr Bethune, of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company, I also received the kindest assistance, as I was in a dilemma regarding the passage of the Meer and suite, about which no intimation had been received at Alexandria, though before leaving Trieste a telegram from London had reached me, stating that the passage had been engaged and the money paid. We only remained a single night at Alexandria, which is the most detestable place I ever was in; for the hotel, though in other respects comfortable, swarmed with musquitoes, the heat was unbearable, and a chorus of braying asses and

howling dogs banished all sleep. At Alexandria a wealthy Mahomedan merchant, long settled in Egypt, by name Khooda Bucksh, paid his respects to the Meer, and did all in his power to accommodate His Highness. With Khooda Bucksh we left a Styrian cow, which the Meer had purchased at Trieste for the purpose of improving the breed of cattle in Sindh, as she was unable to walk from an injury sustained on shipboard. This lessened my responsibilities on the road, and they were no trifle, from the enormous quantity of luggage that His Highness and followers carried with them, and the impossibility of ever inducing any of the party to be punctual as to time. Fortunately for us, railway officials in Egypt are not over-punctual themselves, thus we managed to reach Cairo without any serious mishap. We there found my friend Meer Jaffer Ali Khan Bahader, on his way to India, after a five years' residence in England, where his society was courted in the highest circles.

On the following morning I attended divine service, which was performed by the Rev. Mr Leader, a German missionary, in a spacious room fitted up as a chapel. The congregation

was small, and the minister's pronunciation of English was so painfully indistinct, that it was difficult to follow him; but Mr Leader is a most amiable and devoted missionary, greatly respected by all classes and sects, and is said to have effected much good at Cairo in the thirty years and upwards of his residence there. During the day, the news of the fall of Delhi was telegraphed from Suez, the steamer from Bombay having arrived, and great was the rejoicing amongst our countrymen, whose consumption of Mr Sheppard's champagne, in honour of the victory, was something prodigious. The postal department of Egypt would not seem to be considered of much importance, as there actually was no post office at Cairo, but this want has, I believe, been since remedied. The atmosphere of Egypt is, I am told, unfavourable to the working of the electric telegraph; the transmission of messages being occasionally suspended. This, it is said, generally occurs in the morning, before the sun has attained the zenith, and is supposed to be caused by the damp arising from the Nile, as no such interruption of communication occurs between Cairo and Suez. The railroad, which is now complete, at that

time only extended to within twenty-eight miles of that port. The formation of this railroad has certainly supplied employment to many thousand *Fellahs* or Arab cultivators, but I doubt whether they profit otherwise by the increased transit, as Egypt still exhibits more squalid misery than is, I believe, anywhere else to be found, both in the persons and dwellings of the Fellahs. We quitted Cairo on the evening of the 19th October, and found the railway arrangements tolerably good and the officials civility itself. I had no small difficulty though in starting the Meer's attendants, who had unpacked everything whilst at Cairo, but luckily the train did not leave for an hour after the appointed time, so nobody was left behind. His Highness I always found extremely good-natured and amenable to reason, but like all princes, and especially all Eastern princes, he fancies that the world is made for himself. Take him, however, all in all, Meer Ali Moorad is the best specimen of an Eastern sovereign that I ever came across. His Highness' appearance and manners are highly in his favour. For an Asiatic he is largely built and of highly imposing presence. On horse-back he is seen to

great advantage, having a very neat and soldierly seat, indeed he always looks "every inch a king," and his frank and hearty address is peculiarly taking. Although the Meer came to England late in life, he at once adapted himself to English habits; and here it may not be out of place to give a brief sketch of the previous career of this, the last of the Ameers. Meer Ali Moorad, the independent sovereign of Khyrpoor, was, until recently, the ruler of Upper Sindh, and, as such, in the possession and government of territory yielding a revenue of about eleven Lahks of rupees per annum, or £110,000 sterling. His Highness was the youngest child of Meer Sohrab, who very late in life married a young wife, and had by her this one son, Meer Ali Moorad. On Meer Sohrab's death in 1822, Meer Ali Moorad succeeded under his father's will, according to the usages of his country and of the Talpoor dynasty, to an immediate patrimonial possession of considerable extent and the reversion of the sovereignty after the death of his elder brothers.

After the demise of Meer Sohrab, his eldest son, Meer Roostum Khan, succeeded to the sovereignty of Upper Sindh; his youngest brother,

Meer Ali Moorad, who was at the time only thirteen years of age, being confided to his care. Instead, however, of faithfully fulfilling this sacred trust, both Meer Roostum and his second brother, Meer Moobaruck Khan, possessed themselves of large portions of Meer Ali Moorad's patrimonial territory, and otherwise treated him with injustice; in consequence of which when Meer Ali Moorad arrived at manhood, feuds and disputes arose between the brothers and their respective partisans. The interference of the British political agent, Mr Ross Bell, however brought about a temporary reconciliation, but on the death of that lamented officer, Meer Ali Moorad was attacked by his brother Meer Roostum, and Meer Nusseer Khan, son of Meer Moobaruck, then deceased, with a view to recover certain villages, which had been restored to Meer Ali Moorad by Mr Ross Bell's orders. The villages were burned and several lives lost, and then Meer Ali Moorad prepared to retaliate, and, assembling a force at his fort at Dejee, marched against his hostile relatives, whom he completely defeated at Nownahar, a few miles to the east of Khyrpoor. After the action a formal settlement of

differences took place by treaty entered into on the field of battle; by which treaty, since known as the treaty of Nownahar, and which was solemnly inscribed on a blank leaf of a copy of the Koran, certain districts were acknowledged as the patrimonial possession of Meer Ali Moorad, and certain other districts were ceded, in compensation for the wrongs that he had sustained.

Shortly after this, disturbances arose in Sindh, and Meer Roostum Khan, who was then 85 years of age, finding himself unequal in those troublous times to the cares of government, resigned the turban or sovereignty in favour of Meer Ali Moorad, who by their father's will was entitled to the succession, and the rights of His Highness to the sovereignty, and all the territories appertaining thereto, were fully recognised by the British Government. About this time events occurred in Sindh which led to hostilities between the Hyderabad Ameers and our Government, but Meer Ali Moorad, relying on the faith of the treaties entered into with himself, and the honour of the English nation, supported Sir Charles Napier with 5000 horse, keeping open the General's communications

with Sukker; protecting the whole of Upper Sindh from the hostile Beloochees; guarding the left bank of the Indus, and preventing the advance of hostile tribes, who were endeavouring to join the Hyderabad Ameers at Meeanee. The highly important services that Meer Ali Moorad rendered throughout the campaigns in Sindh were fully appreciated by Sir Charles Napier, who thus notices them in a despatch to the Governor-general—"Ali Moorad's conduct appears to have been loyal from first to last, both to his family and to the British Government;" and that high-minded nobleman, the Earl of Ellenborough, G.C.B., who was then Governor-general, in a despatch dated 23rd August, 1843, stated that "Ali Moorad had been a faithful ally, when his sudden and unexpected enmity might have been fatal to our army." In short, in adversity as in prosperity, Meer Ali Moorad has ever been faithful to the British Government, but, notwithstanding his own example and advice, certain members of his family joined the hostile Ameers, and in consequence of such conduct their lands were confiscated after the battles of Meeanee and Dubba.

Meer Ali Moorad, as the undoubted and recognised sovereign of Upper Sindh, having proved himself the devoted ally of the British Government, and having forwarded the objects of that Government, by placing at its disposal certain territory, which it was desirous of exchanging with the chiefs of Bawulpore and Jeysulmeer, in order to secure an improved boundary of the British possessions on the Indus, Sir Charles Napier, at the close of the Trukkee, or Hill campaign, formally presented His Highness, as a reward for his services, with the districts of Meerpore Matihla and Meherkee (which districts were included in the treaty of Nownahar, but had been taken possession of by the British, on the confiscation of the lands of the hostile Ameers), and Meer Ali Moorad was at once installed in possession thereof. A draft of a treaty between Meer Ali Moorad and the British Government, by which his rights to his territories, including the lands ceded to him under the Nownahar and Turban treaties, were clearly defined and secured, was prepared and approved by Sir Charles Napier, who forwarded it to the Government of India in 1845; but, under one pretence or other, its final ratifica-

tion by the Government was postponed until April, 1850, when the circumstances hereinafter mentioned took place. During the whole of this period, from 1843 to 1850, Meer Ali Moorad was treated as an independent sovereign, and our ally, and in 1850 His Highness received a visit in state from the Governor-general of India, who was accompanied by Mr Pringle, the Chief Commissioner of Sindh. This functionary was, as is now known, collecting evidence at that very time for the purpose of implicating Meer Ali Moorad in a charge of having fraudulently introduced a page into the Koran, containing the treaty of Nownahar, in which he had, it is alleged, substituted the word "*Purgunnah*," meaning district, for "*Deh*," meaning village or town, whereby he added to the possessions then ceded to him the districts of Meerpore Matihla, and Meherkee, before referred to, as having been conferred by grant of Sir Charles Napier. An accusation to this effect had been secretly made three years previously to the Commissioner, by a man named Shaikh Ali Husseyn, formerly Minister to Meer Ali Moorad, who had fled his dominions to avoid punishment for embezzlement, his estate

having been confiscated by his injured master. The accusation was further supported by three other persons, viz. Jokee Ram, a moonshee of infamous character, who was at the very time a convict undergoing sentence in a British jail; Peer Ali Gohur, who had been also formerly in Meer Ali Moorad's service, and was implicated in the guilt of Shaikh Ali Husseyn; and Tower Mull, another convict in the same jail. These individuals all stipulated in writing for large rewards, as the condition for giving their information, besides a free pardon for their past crimes. Such was the kind of evidence produced against the unfortunate Meer, and on which His Highness was condemned. It is unnecessary further to dilate on this monstrous, and, to the British authorities, most disgraceful affair, except to state that the witnesses were released from jail and *rewarded* for their *valuable* testimony, whereby the Marquis of Dalhousie was enabled to annex territory to the value of about £80,000 a year. Thus, not only did his Lordship deprive Meer Ali Moorad of the district that he is accused of having obtained by unfair means, but he also seized upon a large portion of the lands that he otherwise possessed. Shaikh

Ali Husseyn, the principal witness against the Meer, did not long enjoy the fruits of his villany, as, shortly after having given evidence against that unfortunate Prince, he died at Bombay. On his death-bed he sent for Mirza Ali Acbar, Sir Charles Napier's moonshee, to whom he had preferred the first accusation against Meer Ali Moorad, and then confessed its falsehood, as thus reported by the Chief of Police at Bombay:—

"Ali Husseyn had been for some time sick before the day of his death. He sent a servant to call Ali Acbar, moonshee to Sir Charles Napier, and I have ascertained that the following is the conversation that took place between them:— Ali Husseyn was apparently dying. He said that he had sent for him to express his wishes, as his last hour was approaching. He wished him to see he was properly interred, as he had very few rupees left, perhaps not sufficient. He said that he wished the Government pension of 200 rupees should revert to his son or family, and adding, I shall not live to enjoy it, being the fruit of my villany. He then wept, and said he was trembling at the idea of appearing before God to answer for all the treachery

(nimuck haramee) he practised towards his master (Meer Ali Moorad). He stated that the proofs he gave before the commission were all forgeries, and that his and Peer Ali Gohur's evidence was false. That in 1844 he became an enemy of his master (Ali Moorad), and from that date plotted all he could devise against him with Peer Ali Gohur. Ali Acbar tried to console him with the hope of recovery, but he replied, 'No, I shall never recover,' and that he feared that his present confession would do him no good, but that God might consider it. After this he began to ramble in his speech, but was not insensible, and the subject appeared to be regret and grief at the part he had taken. The above conversation was between Ali Husseyn and Ali Acbar, the former having ordered his servants out of the room, and made them shut the door. This is all that I can learn, and all, I believe, that took place."

Meer Ali Moorad, having again and again in vain appealed for redress to the Indian authorities, determined at length to visit England and appeal to Her Majesty and Parliament for justice, but no sooner was the Government aware of his intention than every obstacle was

thrown in his way. He was threatened with the highest displeasure of the British Government, and apprized that they would prevent his being received in England with the respect due to his rank; and they certainly kept their word, as the Court of Directors refused their assent to his presentation to the Queen.

Upon the news of the insurrection reaching England, Meer Ali Moorad gave the President of the Board of Control the strongest assurances of his loyalty and fidelity to the British Government; and at once sent instructions to his eldest son, Meer Shah Nowaz, who was then acting as his representative, to place every man and horse he could muster at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner in Sindh; and such instructions were carried out to the full satisfaction of that functionary. Shortly afterwards His Highness quitted England at the particular desire of the Right Hon. Vernon Smith, then President of the Board of Control, and in the firm belief that his territory would be speedily restored, as the reward of his well-proved fidelity under the most trying circumstances.

Such is a hasty sketch of the antecedents of Meer Ali Moorad Khan Bahader, Talpoor, the

sovereign of Khyrpoor; and now let us accompany His Highness on the journey to Suez.

The train reached the terminus tent at about midnight, and there we found great part of the passengers who had the preceding day arrived at Suez. Some few were sick officers from India, but the greater number were ladies and children, who in many instances had barely escaped with their lives. The supper provided for us was not of a sumptuous quality, and, indeed, barely sufficient for such a host of hungry travellers, for Egyptian fowls are the leanest and toughest in the universe, though whether this arises from the peculiarity of their education in early chickenhood, whilst inmates of the hatching establishment of Cairo, I cannot take on myself to say. The vans to carry us on the remaining eight-and-twenty miles to Suez were announced at about three in the morning. The first stages were accomplished propitiously, but the last set of mules proved restive, and after a severe fight between the coachman and his team, the former at length gave in, and leaving the van and its passengers to their fate, returned to the station-house for more tractable animals. Patience is not amongst the virtues

of princes generally, and to be thus unceremoniously dropped in the desert, with a possibility of some hours' detention there, was too much for our worthy Meer, who having relieved his feelings by ejaculations in reference to the coachman and his mules, coupled with allusions to the female relatives of both parties, which would hardly bear translation, His Highness proposed walking on towards our destination, and we accordingly started; but the Meer is an indifferent pedestrian, and ere we had advanced a couple of miles, was completely knocked up, and seating himself on a rock by the way-side, declared he could walk no further. Fortunately at that moment I descried an object far in the distance, and before long our van arrived at a gallop. This restored the Meer's equanimity, and we soon reached the hotel at Suez, wherein apartments had been prepared for His Highness and suite; and it was well that we had made such arrangements, as nearly two hundred passengers for India and Australia arrived during the night, and the hotel, albeit very large, was quite inadequate to accommodate such a number, so that some of the ladies, even, were unable to obtain beds on the

occasion. On the following morning His Highness embarked in the Pekin steamer, and having seen to the safe shipment of his baggage, and four Styrian greyhounds, I followed in the cool of the evening.

CHAPTER II.

Steamer Pekin—Mount Horeb—*Bir-ool-Moosa—Hummam-ool-Pharaoon*—Royal Engineers—Islands in Red Sea—Divine Service—Exciting Intelligence—Aden Hotel—The Meer's Liberality—Bombay—Indian Musicians—A Mahomedan Entertainment—Mercantile Importance of Bombay—Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart.—Lord Elphinstone—The Berenice—Munora—Tradition.

THE Pekin is a most comfortable vessel, admirably found in all ways, but being one of the second-class steamers of the P. and O. Company, and only calculated to accommodate fifty passengers, and our numbers exceeding sixty, we were a good deal crowded; indeed, for the first two or three days, some of us were obliged to dine on deck, but additional tables being placed in the corners of the saloon, everybody thus found accommodation. The Meer never came to table, as he preferred having his meals in his own cabin, which was situated near the fore saloon, where he had all his people about him. The commander was most obliging and

liberal in the matter of supplies for His Highness; in fact, he requested me to apply to the head steward for whatever the Meer required, and I suspect that his servants made no small use of their master's name in procuring both eatables and drinkables for their own consumption, as the head steward and the Meer's Jemadar of cooks had occasional skirmishes on this score; however, on the whole, matters got on pretty smoothly, and the Meer soon became very popular amongst the passengers, with whom he played chess, at which game no one on board had any chance with him. Myself and chum, Mr I——, had berths in the omnibus cabin, a very large and airy one, but there being eight occupants thereof, this was productive of some inconvenience, from there being only ablutionary accommodation for two; however travellers, and especially overland travellers, must make up their minds to some discomforts. For my own part I am an early riser, and was generally one of the first on deck, in dressing-gown and *paejamas*, to secure an early turn in the bath, after which I lounged about with a book till it was time to dress for breakfast. Fortunately our omnibus passengers

were most accommodating persons, and we got on admirably together. On the third day we passed Mount Horeb, of which we had a good view, and here it may not be out of place to mention that the Arabs declare that the children of Israel crossed over from Egypt at that part of the Red Sea opposite to the *Bir-ool Moosa*, or Wells of Moses, which supply Suez with its [very indifferent] water, and take their name from that estimable patriarch. They also, according to their traditions, name that part of the Red Sea the *Hummam-ool-Pharaoon*, or Bath of Pharaoh, where that monarch's host is supposed to have perished.

Amongst our passengers we had an entire company, one hundred strong, of the Royal Engineers, with six officers, all very superior men, as officers of engineers generally are. The soldiers so completely occupied the deck that it was difficult to move from end to end of the vessel; but they were so orderly and well behaved, and the arrangements of the Pekin so excellent, that little inconvenience resulted, except to the poor fellows themselves, who must have suffered greatly from the heat, which was daily increasing. On the fourth day of our

voyage the thermometer on the saloon staircase, the coolest place in the ship, was at 87° at noon. The islands in the Red Sea are so numerous that one cannot remember half of them, but the principal are the Zebor Islands on the Arabian coast, twelve in number, called also the Twelve Apostles, and Jubbul Teyeer, Bird Island, a partially extinct volcano, which occasionally emits smoke. On the 25th, it being Sunday, divine service was performed by the captain, to a congregation of fully two hundred persons, and the accompaniment to the hymns was played on the harmonium by one of the officers; I have often attended services less pleasingly performed on shore, and the congregation appeared very devout. Our passage down the Red Sea was rather tedious, for the Pekin is a slow vessel, but such is the only thing against her. In approaching *Bab-el-Mundub*, we so closely hugged the Arabian shore, as to have a good view of Mocho, and passed near the long low island of Perim, the subject, a short time since, of a much-vexed political question.

We reached Aden at 1 a. m. on the 28th October, and one of the passengers having re-

ceived an overland summary of the Bombay Gazette, was so good as to read aloud the exciting intelligence it contained, to all the rest; and could we have been photographed as we stood in every variety of sleeping costume, we certainly should have made a graphic picture. The intelligence from India was of a mixed character, but, upon the whole, the good predominated over the bad, for though the spread of disaffection, as evidenced in the plot just discovered at Bombay, showed that no dread of consequences, even when the cause of the insurgents had become apparently hopeless, would deter Mahomedan bigots from plotting against the lives of Christians, the fall of Delhi was a grand triumph to British arms, and the capture of the royal family rendered it the more complete. The timely relief of Lucknow by the gallant Havelock, announced in the same paper, was, indeed, a most providential event. These two highly important successes had, however, cost us dear in the loss of two of our most distinguished generals, poor Neill and Nicholson, but individuals must not be thought of where the public weal is concerned!

At Aden we found the *Hindoostan* steamer on

her way to Suez, and her coaling occupied great part of the following day, so that the Meer determined on landing, as did, indeed, most of the passengers, greatly to the advantage of the hotel-keeper, a Parsee. The hotel at Aden consists of a long range of buildings divided into separate rooms, with an open veranda in front, and bathing-rooms, &c., in rear. The floors are plastered, without even a date mat to conceal their nakedness. Everything about this hotel is in the most pristine state of simplicity, but the place is tolerably cool, and afforded us shelter during the unpleasant operation of coaling. The hotel is flanked by a shop, kept, I believe, by the same Parsee proprietor, whose supplies in both establishments were quite unequal to the demand, as the almost simultaneous arrival of three steamers, crowded with passengers, had a very locust-like effect on the provisions of the place, and everything was charged for at famine prices.

Aden, supposed to be an extinct volcano, is without exception the most barren-looking spot I ever beheld, albeit situated in Arabia Felix! and in looking at the mountain of cinders before me, I said to myself, what can Arabia

Deserta be like, if this, which might be taken for the cinder-cellar of Pandemonium, can be part of Arabia Felix? I was told, however, that cultivation commenced at a very short distance beyond the British boundary, but as to the port itself, there is not a shade of difference in colour between the soil of the place and the vast piles of *coal* upon the beach, awaiting shipment on the steamers. Some of the passengers went up to the cantonments, distant about five miles, but the horses and donkeys for hire were insufficient in number to mount all who required them. The Meer got a barouche, which, judging from its appearance, must have been the earliest specimen of the kind that was ever seen in Arabia. At Aden His Highness picked up a Hadjee, or pilgrim, returning from Mecca, whose passage he directed me to pay, in the supposition, I believe, that the relief thus afforded to a Hadjee would be only second to performing the pilgrimage in person, which His Highness had intended doing on his way back to India, but was prevented by the necessity for his speedy return to his own country. Our new *compagnon de voyage* was, however, so exceedingly unclean in his person, that I suggested

his indulgence in a bath and clean clothing before going on board, lest he should carry with him some of the many little entomological specimens that had accompanied him from Mecca, and wherewith his garments seemingly abounded. Whether my suggestions were attended to or not I cannot say, but I took care to give my friend the Hadjee a wide berth during the voyage.

We quitted Aden at three o'clock on the morning of the 29th October, having been detained there twenty-six hours, a monstrous waste of time, when every moment was of importance, for had all been ready for coaling on our arrival, that operation ought not to have occupied above one-third of the time. During our stay at Aden, a poor serjeant of artillery was brought on board in the last stage of liver complaint, and died immediately on his arrival, leaving a young widow and four children, for whom a subscription was at once set on foot, and nearly 600 rupees were collected; my royal master and Meer Jaffer Ali each contributing most liberally to the subscription, the amount whereof was handed over to the Adjutant-General of Artillery for the widow's use, on our arrival at

Bombay. Indians are truly liberal and kind-hearted on the occasion of any such appeals to their sympathy and assistance. By the way, Meer Ali Moorad, on leaving England, though much straitened himself, forwarded £100 to the Lord Mayor for the Indian Relief Fund. His Highness was in high spirits at a paragraph in one of the Bombay papers that I showed him at Aden, stating that his eldest son, Meer Shah Nowaz, had just had an opportunity of displaying his loyalty in the capture of 25 incendiaries, who were attempting to excite the Meer's subjects to revolt against the British Government. His Highness is really a very kind-hearted man, and for two days that I was seriously unwell, he appeared much concerned, and was very anxious on my account, and expressed himself to that effect, saying that he must be answerable for my life to my family. Still he is a perfect baby in some respects, rages like a tiger if his dinner or breakfast be delayed, or not to his taste, and seems to think that the regulations of the ship must be set aside for his convenience, should he require it. The poor Meer is above all jealous of Meer Jaffer Ali, the Prince of Surat, whose demeanour is most dignified on all

occasions, but he has lived from his youth amongst Europeans, whilst my royal master has not had similar advantages.

A poor soldier of the Engineers was struck by a *coup de soleil* just after we left Aden, and notwithstanding the skill and attention of the medical officers, he sank under it on the night we reached Bombay. Captain Cumberland, of the Engineers, gave up his own cabin to the soldier, whose ravings at night were terrible to hear. Thus our voyage from Aden commenced and concluded with a death.

We reached Bombay on the morning of the 6th of November, and were struck with the beauty of the scenery around its magnificent harbour, but this has been so often described that I shall not weary my readers by dilating on the subject. Immediately on our anchoring, a moonshee, who is much in the Meer's confidence, came off to pay his respects to His Highness, bringing letters from Meer Shah Nowaz and his brothers. Having made arrangements with the Custom House department for landing that portion of the Meer's baggage which he most immediately required, we got into a budgerow, a large boat, with a cabin, and were

speedily landed at the Bunder, a very fine pier and landing-place of cut granite, constructed at the expense of that princely Parsee merchant, the late Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart.

Here we found carriages awaiting us, in which we proceeded to the *Elchee ka Bungalow*, a large up-stair house on the Baboola tank. This residence was very roomy and tolerably cool, but swarmed with musquitoes from the vicinity of the water. Then commenced the discomforts of Mr I. and myself, for the house was nearly destitute of furniture, and though arrangements were speedily made for the Meer's breakfast and accommodation, no thought was given to our wants, so after despatching a letter to the Secretary to Government, announcing His Highness' arrival, we started for the fort, about two miles distant, where we achieved baths, and breakfasted at Pollumjee's Hotel. We then proceeded to the Custom House, when having been introduced to the Commissioner Mr Spooner, by Mr Ritchie, agent to the P. and O. Steam Company, I received every assistance in his power to afford, regarding the Meer's baggage, of which 56 cases that had come *vid* Southampton, were lying in the Custom House, in addition to

some nineteen packages that his Highness had brought with him from Trieste. Unfortunately, however, a case containing the guns that had caused me disquietude at Alexandria was nowhere to be found, although both the Meer and myself had seen it upon deck just before we left the Pekin. The examination of His Highness' guns, on which we had to pay duty, was no trifling matter, as they were upwards of twenty in number. So many magnificent guns, all by the first makers in England, were probably never before imported by any private individual for his own use, and no man living can handle a gun better than Meer Ali, whose shooting I shall describe hereafter.

After a fatiguing morning's work at the Custom House, I returned to the *Elchee ka Bungalow*, so called from having been the residence of a Persian ambassador, during his stay at Bombay about thirty years ago. Some appearance of comfort had been given in our absence to the Hall of Audience, a fine room, 120 feet long, by 40 in width, as Persian carpets had been spread, and couches arranged about a round table. We found the Meer in high good humour, having just dined to his satisfaction. His Highness, who was richly

dressed, was giving audience to some of the principal native gentlemen of the Presidency, who had come to pay their respects. Amongst the number was Agha Khan, the "Old man of the Mountain," a Persian Prince of the blood royal, who was seated on the couch with His Highness, and appeared to enjoy the highest consideration. During our absence a couple of camp cots and some few articles of furniture had been also put into our rooms, but as His Highness' establishment could not boast of any appliances for the table, I proposed that we should betake ourselves to one of the hotels and dine at the *table d'hôte*. This arrangement being approved by the Meer, to whose native guests our presence appeared rather a *gêne*, we accordingly started for the "Adelphi," formerly the residence of Sir Erskine Perry, when Chief Justice, but now a very excellent hotel. Here we found a capital *table d'hôte*, attended by several of our fellow-passengers, and I renewed my acquaintance with a Judge of the Bombay Sudr Udaulut, whom I had known in London.

The thoughts of our own dreary quarters caused us to quit this pleasant party with regret, but

we at length got into our shigram, a small four-wheeled carriage in use at Bombay, and wended our way to the *Elchee ka Bungalow*. On reaching it we heard the sounds of music, if music it could be called, and found the Meer surrounded by a host of natives, the higher in rank seated on couches and chairs, the inferiors squatted on the ground. Facing His Highness were numerous musicians and singers, said to be the finest performers in Bombay. The instrumental music consisted of a large kind of lute, on which the singer accompanied himself, assisted by two others, one of whom played on a kind of violin, the other beat with his fingers a small Tom-tom, or drum, about the size of a slop-basin. The time was very good, and that was the only redeeming point in the performance. The airs were all extremely monotonous. The compass of the voices was very limited, and the Bombay Mario's melody very much resembled the howling of a sheep dog, under the influence of cholic. However, His Highness seemed intensely delighted with the performance, though to English ears the screeching was abominable; but we were forced to listen to it for a couple of

hours, when the Meer, becoming drowsy, broke up the party, and all retired to their cots, though I cannot say to repose, for the heat was dreadful, and the musquitoes made a hearty meal on the fresh blood of the new comers. On visiting the Meer during the process of his morning toilet, as was my usual custom, I inquired which was the preferable climate, that of Sindh or Bombay,—his answer was "*Sindh Behisht, een Dozukh.*" "Sindh is Paradise, this is Hell." My own after experience did not, however, lead me to the like favourable opinion of His Highness' country.

Lord Elphinstone, the governor of Bombay, being absent from the Presidency at Mataran, His Highness despatched the Hukeem Imaum ood deen, his principal officer, a most gentlemanly and highly polished old man, with a complimentary letter to His Lordship, who received the Hukeem very graciously, and expressed his regret at being unable to receive the Meer until his return to Bombay, as his Bungalow at Mataran did not afford accommodation for visits of ceremony. On the following day the Political Secretary to Government paid his respects to the Meer, who appeared much gratified at the

attention, but was impatient for the Governor's arrival, to learn what steps would be taken towards the restoration of his territory.

Bombay was at this time in an uneasy state; disaffection had recently been discovered amongst the native troops at the Presidency, and by those best informed, was supposed to have spread considerably; some executions had taken place just before our arrival, and the demeanour of the native population towards Europeans was in the highest degree disrespectful. Although Delhi had fallen nearly two months before, the fact was disbelieved, or the natives professed to disbelieve it, saying, "Oh, you told us you had taken the place before, and that you know was a falsehood." There certainly was truth in this, as a false report of the fall of Delhi had been some time before in circulation. Fortunately for the safety of the town, the Bombay Police had at its head one of the most energetic and thoroughly efficient officers in India, Mr Forjett, a gentleman who speaks several languages just as a native, and can assume any kind of disguise. He discovered the existence of a plot, having for its object the massacre of all the Europeans and

the plunder of Bombay by the sepoys and Mahomedans, who were then to move off to the interior with their booty. Treasonable meetings were held, at which Mr Forjett was present in disguise, and thus became fully acquainted with the designs of the conspirators. The officer commanding one of the regiments declared his disbelief of the disaffection of any of his men, and would not be convinced of the fact, until he actually saw from the adjoining house, wherein he was concealed by Mr Forjett, a native officer and several men of his own regiment, and overheard the discussion of their plans. Bombay was just then, too, almost destitute of European troops; but the paucity of numbers was to a certain degree remedied by the admirable arrangements made for obtaining assistance from the shipping in the harbour. Every available European sailor was held in readiness to land fully armed, either by night or day, on a given signal from the fort, and such signal was known only to the commanders of vessels.

On the very day that the plot of the conspirators was to have exploded, a wing of H.M. 95th foot landed at Bombay, and this regiment

was shortly followed by others, who were pushed on rapidly to the front, to join that part of the force whose services were soon afterwards so distinguished under the command of Sir Hugh Rose, in Central India.

The town of Bombay is in appearance very inferior to the capitals of the other Presidencies, but far superior to Madras in wealth and commercial importance. The Parsees, who form a large portion of the community, are, I believe, the most energetic and enterprising merchants in the world. The Mahomedan and Hindoo merchants, too, are many of them men of enormous capital, which, being always employed, is constantly increasing. Shortly after our arrival a grand entertainment was given in honour of Meer Ali Moorad, by one of the leading Mahomedan, or rather Bhorah, merchants, Teyabjee Boeemeah, whose son, Cummeroodeen Teyabjee, I had known in London, where he was studying the law in a solicitor's office. The old gentleman was moreover quite delighted at finding that I knew his son, and was enabled to speak very much in his favour, both as to his ability and steadiness of conduct; so I was of course at once installed in his good graces. The Meer

was at first rather reluctant to accept the invitation, as he considered it somewhat *infra dig.* to honour a Bhorah merchant with his princely presence, but I at length induced him to go, by telling him that Meer Jaffer Ali would be there, and accordingly we proceeded at seven p.m. to Teyabjee's garden, which we found one blaze of light. The garden was prettily laid out, with numerous broad walks, every walk being bordered by arches of bamboo, each supporting six small lamps, which in the aggregate must have amounted to many thousands, and had a pretty effect, causing the garden to resemble Vauxhall on a small scale. Our host received us at the gate, and conducted us through his garden to a handsomely-furnished drawing-room, brilliantly lighted by six fine lustres. Here we found assembled about a hundred of the principal Mahomedan and Parsee inhabitants of the Presidency, amongst the number my much-valued friend Meer Jaffer Ali, the Prince of Surat, who has a very fine house at Bombay. The *Kazee-ool-Koozat*, or Mahomedan Judge of Judges, a very venerable old man, was also of the party. My royal master was received with all honour by the assembled company, and

I never saw him to greater advantage. Many present were as richly dressed, but no one equalled my chief in dignity of bearing; indeed, I have heard many, who met Meer Ali Moorad in England, declare that they never met with a man so singularly courteous and pleasing in manner, or possessing a clearer or more intelligent mind.

After a considerable pause, not less, I think, than an hour, dinner was announced, and we were led by our host across the garden, to another large building, where we found dinner laid in a spacious hall up-stairs, the floor of which was covered with a white cloth, and on that the dinner was placed. The guests kicked off their shoes at the door, and my royal master and the other magnates of the land were ushered to their places by our host in person, and sat or squatted down with their backs to the wall. Each had before him, arranged in two rows, about a dozen dessert plates of curries, pillaos, and sweets, with a couple of tall glasses of iced lemonade. Rosewater was then brought round in a golden vessel, and each guest washed his right hand preparatory to eating his dinner, as knives, forks, and spoons appeared to be as

yet unintroduced amongst the black *Beau monde* of Bombay, at least in their native entertainments. All this time I was standing at the dining-room door, debating with myself what I should do, for my dress trousers having straps, I could not well get off my boots; in fact, so convinced was I that the continuative paraphernalia would never be equal to squatting on the ground, that I meditated a bolt into the garden and abandoning my dinner, when just at that moment my dear old host (may his shadow increase), came to the rescue, and requested me to walk down-stairs, where I should find dinner laid for me on a table. And a very good dinner I made, albeit I was somewhat puzzled how to manage my pillao without fork or spoon; but two bits of chupatee, or native bread, supplied the deficiency. Had the dishes been hot, they might probably have been good, but all was stone cold, and I consequently cannot speak highly of our host's cuisine. After a time I heard a move in the upper story, with the shuffling of feet into slippers, and we all returned to the drawing-room, where after sitting for an hour or so, rather ruminating than talking, for the conversational powers of the party did not appear

of a high order; *Uttar* and *Pawn* were brought in, and taking our leave we returned to the *Elchee ka Bungalow.*

The mercantile importance of Bombay is enormous, and appears to be every day increasing; in fact, we may consider it the grand commercial emporium of the East, as commanding the entire trade of the Persian Gulf, with much of that from Central Asia and the countries bordering on the Indus, besides all that of the north-west coast; and the railway and other improved communications with the interior, must contribute largely to the prosperity of this port. Bombay, from its geographical position and local advantages, could hardly fail to be prosperous under any circumstances, but the main source of its prosperity seems to be the enterprising character of its merchants. For example, the late Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart., who died not long since, leaving a fortune of £850,000, had during his life distributed from eighty to a hundred thousand pounds amongst his relations, besides expending about an equal sum in charities and works of public benefit; yet this enormously wealthy merchant, whose charities were really bound-

less, commenced life as a dealer in empty bottles, and by industry, intelligence, and enterprise, accumulated that colossal fortune; and there are, it is said, several other merchants at the western Presidency, both Parsee, Hindoo, and Mahomedan, not much inferior in wealth to the deceased Baronet. Amongst my acquaintances I may also mention Juganathjee Sunkersett, at whose gardens, which are the finest in Bombay, I attended a very brilliant entertainment; but the gentleman with whom I became most intimate was Mirza Ali Mahomed Khan, whom I greatly liked. The Mirza is by birth a Persian, and fills the office of Turkish Consul at Bombay. In habits, and manners, and tastes, he is almost a European; indeed, he has resided some time both in England and France. At the Mirza's house I became acquainted with Sir Cursetjee Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart., and found in him a gentleman of the most enlightened views, in all relating to India. There, also, I met the Arab commander of a frigate then in course of construction for the Sultaun of Zanzibar. This gentleman, on my remarking how perfectly he spoke English, informed me that he had been taken

to England when quite a child, and was for eight years at the London University. He had also been a considerable time in France and Germany, the languages of both which countries he spoke fluently.

Shortly after our arrival at Bombay, Meer Ali Moorad's nephew, Meer Ali Buksh, arrived from Poonah. This prince, although one of the sons of Meer Roostum, appeared to be on the most cordial terms with Meer Ali Moorad, and is, I hear, to marry one of His Highness' daughters, so soon as pecuniary arrangements can be made, which match will be acceptable to all well-wishers of the family. Meer Ali Buksh has a strong family-likeness to his uncle, though much smaller in stature, and wanting that high polish of manners which so peculiarly marks Meer Ali Moorad.

During our stay at Bombay the Meer purchased some very fine horses, which cost him a large sum, as the Arab dealers at that time doubled their ordinary prices, on account of the great demand for horses to mount the dragoon regiments then on their way from England, viz. the 3rd and 7th Dragoon Guards, 8th Hussars, and 17th Lancers. The Meer is him-

self a very good judge of a horse, according to English ideas, which differ somewhat from those of the natives, and though he paid high prices he certainly got first-rate Arabs. The Bombay people generally are great horse-fanciers, and the merchants of that Presidency, especially Parsees, drive the finest horses that I ever saw in harness out of England.

Lord Elphinstone on his return from Matara at once fixed a day for the Meer's state-visit, and His Highness was received at Government House with the honours due to his rank; and though no direct promise was made, Lord Elphinstone assured him of the favourable intentions of Government, and recommended his proceeding immediately to Sindh, placing himself under the orders of the Commissioner, and exerting himself to the utmost in the preservation of law and order in his own territory. This was the more gratifying, as so strongly in contrast with the harsh and unworthy treatment he had experienced from the Bombay Government on leaving India; but all the local authorities were then hostile to him, whereas he returned at the recommendation and on the friendly assurances of those high in power at

home. On the following day His Highness received a further visit from Mr Anderson, political secretary to Government, who, under instructions from Lord Elphinstone, communicated to His Highness that the war steamer, *Berenice,* was at his disposal for the conveyance of himself and suite to Kurrachee, whither she was about to proceed. This graceful mark of attention was very pleasing to the Meer, and having despatched our horses and the bulk of our *impedimenta* and servants in the mail steamer, *Bombay,* to Kurrachee, His Highness, Mr I——, and myself, with seven attendants, embarked next day in the *Berenice,* a splendid ship of her size.

The *Berenice* is one of the most comfortable vessels I ever sailed in; she has no poop, but the captain's saloon is capable of accommodating with ease 30 persons at table. On either side are three large cabins, which were occupied by the Captain, Surgeon, His Highness, two officers of the 7th Dragoon Guards, Captain Sydney Cotton, and ourselves. Captain Chitty keeps a capital table, and is most liberal in all ways. The *Berenice* had only then just returned from the Persian expedition, and still

carried the marks of rough usage in that service. Her gallant commander, who bears the highest professional character, is in manner a frank sailor, but withal a highly polished gentleman and a most agreeable companion. We left Bombay harbour late in the afternoon, were soon out of sight of land, and as we crossed the mouth of the Gulf of Cambay the motion was unpleasant. On the second day we were in sight of the low coast of Kattiwar, which increases in elevation to the northward. Passing the headland of Dwarka, celebrated for its fine pagodas, one of which, visible at a distance of twenty miles, is a prominent landmark, we steamed along the coast of Cutch.

The *Berenice* is a very fast steamer, but much to her commander's disgust he was ordered to tow up a dredging machine, which acted as a clog upon her movements; however, there was no help for it, and we had so pleasant a party that a little delay was very endurable. The Meer, to wile away the time, got out some of his guns, and we had some good rifle practice at bottles. His Highness is, without exception, the finest shot I ever saw. On one occasion a gentleman of high celebrity as a marksman

was backed against him. The mark was a bottle hanging from the yard-arm, and at Meer Ali Moorad's request his antagonist took the initiative, and at the first shot broke the bottle. "Very good," said the Meer, "but I think I can do better; you see the bit of string by which the neck of the bottle still remains suspended. Now, I will cut that bit of string without touching the neck of the bottle." To the astonishment of every one the Meer did so, although the neck of the bottle was oscillating so quickly that the string was hardly visible. On the following morning we sighted the Munora light-house, which marks the entrance into the harbour of Kurrachee. The fishermen of the port have a tradition that a venerable saint was drowned somewhere in the eastern seas, and that the fishes brought his body for interment to Munora, then a little sand-bank, which, after the saint had been buried there, rapidly increased in size, until it had attained its present proportions.

CHAPTER III.

Appearance of Sindh—Dangers of its Coast—Its Ports—Kurrachee Harbour—Munora Light-House—Europe Hotel—Boundaries of Sindh—Kurrachee, the Commercial Gate of Central Asia—Cantonments—Increase of Sea Trade—Want of Water—Muggur Talao, or Alligator Tank—Fight between an Alligator and a Tiger—Meer Shah Nowaz—Navigation of the Indus—Flats for the Conveyance of Troops—Frere Steamer—Ports on the Indus—The Water of that River—Tatta—Ruins of Kullian Kot—Shifting character of the Indus—Appearance of the Country—Jerruk.

THE appearance of the coast of Sindh from the sea is by no means attractive; its predominant features are arid sand, bounded in the distance by the Hala mountains, a barren range which separates Sindh from the territory of Kelat. This coast is particularly dangerous during the south-west monsoon, which commences in June and terminates in August, and the like remark is applicable to the entire coast of Kattiwar and the Gulf of Cutch, as these shores are then lashed by the whole force of the Indian Ocean in its wildest fury. Cape Monze, at the

southern extremity of the Halarange, is, in coming from Bombay, the point made for; a little to the eastward of it is Kurrachee Bay; besides which the sea face of the Province has four minor ports, for the import and export of merchandise by native craft, viz. Ghizree, Wugodur, Khetti, and Seir Gunda, but Kurrachee is the only land-locked harbour on the coast between Bombay and the Red Sea, and is the nearest safe port to the Persian Gulf.

The harbour of Kurrachee can be entered throughout the year by square-rigged vessels of 800 tons burden, and not drawing more than 18 feet water, and vessels drawing even 20 feet have entered with safety; but the port is closed during the monsoon to country craft, which are unable to face its violence, and the traffic between Kurrachee and the river is during the Monsoon months carried on at the ports of Ghizree and Wugodur.

Kurrachee harbour has been surveyed and buoyed off. It possesses a light-house, projected by Sir Charles Napier, and erected on the highest point of the promontory of Munora, at the entrance of the harbour, which is about 200 feet above the level of the sea. On a clear

night this light is visible at a distance of fifteen miles. The harbour is very spacious, and has room for twenty ships of 800 tons each, and any number of small craft. Under the promontory of Munora, on the eastern side, vessels anchor in security. The light-house, and all pertaining to the harbour, is under the superintendence of the port officer. A pilot and pilot-boat are attached to the port, and a powerful steam-tug brings vessels into the harbour, which is becoming gradually clearer and deeper under the effective operation of the dredging machines, one of which the *Berenice* took round in tow to Kurrachee.

We came in sight of the Munora light-house at day-break, and I cannot say that my first impressions of Sindh were favourable to "Young Egypt." The port officer, Lieutenant Giles, of the Indian Navy, came on board off Munora Point, and His Highness and ourselves having taken leave of Captain Chitty and his officers, the Meer, with Pullyar Khan, a favourite attendant, Mr I——, and myself, left the *Berenice* in the captain's barge, steered by an officer, who landed us at the jetty near Keamaree Bunder Custom House, a long straggling building.

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His Highness on landing mounted a horse that was in readiness, and cantered off to a Bungalow that had been prepared for his reception, situated about midway between the port and Cantonments, Mr I—— and myself being evidently forgotten in the joy that the Meer felt at again standing on the soil of Sindh. However, we soon procured a conveyance, and directed the driver to conduct us to the "Europe Hotel," which we found a very clean and comfortable abiding-place, and to myself extremely convenient, as being close to the Meer's quarters. Our hostess, a Belgian dame of vast proportions, but showing still the remains of considerable early beauty, was most kind and attentive during our stay in her well-regulated establishment, which I can strongly recommend. Her husband, an engineer of the Indian Navy, is a very obliging and intelligent person, and from them both I gathered a good deal of information regarding Sindh.

Sindh Proper, styled by Abul Fazel in the Ayeen Akbery as Sirkar Tatah, the fourth Sirkar of the Soobah of Mooltan, may be considered as the country lying along both banks of the river Indus, bounded on the north by the

Bhawulpoor territory, on the south by the ocean, eastward by the great and small sandy deserts, and westward by the Lukkee and Hala mountains, which separate it from Beloochistan. The extent of the valley of the Indus may be estimated at about 500 miles in length, allowing for the windings of the river, but extremely variable in its breadth. Sindh is divided geographically into two principal portions, Upper and Lower. Upper Sindh comprises all that country along both banks of the Indus, from Sehwan, northward to Bhawulpoor; and Lower Sindh, all that from Sehwan to the sea.

Having established ourselves in the hotel, I visited Meer Ali Moorad, who was kindness itself, and welcomed me heartily to his native land. We then drove down to the port to see after our baggage, as one of my portmanteaus was missing, but I was lucky enough to recover it. Kurrachee is a native town of some pretension, but situated on the margin of a vast swamp, which at low water can hardly be healthful. This swamp is crossed by a fine causeway of cut stone three thousand yards in length; which was projected by the conqueror of Sindh, and of which he completed 783 yards

during his stay in the province, but the Government then thought fit to stop this noble work; its value being however apparent to Sir Bartle Frere, the late Chief Commissioner, he after much difficulty obtained the sanction of Government for its completion. To give an idea of the difficulties encountered in its construction, I need but say that in order to form a basis for the structure, the swamp was crossed by filling date bags, made of coarse grass, with stiff mud, and throwing them in at low water. Having thus obtained a solid footing, the mole or causeway was constructed. It extends from the landing-place at Keamaree Bunder to the entrance into the town of Kurrachee.

Sir Charles Napier, whose administrative abilities were fully equal to his eminent military talents, had been but a short time in Sindh ere he discovered the great natural capabilities of the country, and projected means for developing its resources, more especially for availing himself of its geographical position, as the only outlet for the produce of Upper India, the Punjaub, Cachemeer, and that brought by the Cafillas to Shikarpore, which has ever been a great trading city, having extensive dealings

even so far distant as Bokhara, so that the port of Kurrachee may now be looked on as the commercial gate of Central Asia.

Sindh is evidently a land of much promise in a commercial point of view, and its political importance is undeniable. The works projected by the master-mind that conquered the country have been mostly carried out, or are at this moment in progress. Every step that one takes from the Custom House inland shows that in the Chief Commissioner of Sindh the Government selected "the right man for the right place," and that he had an able staff to carry out his intentions. But to return to my description of Kurrachee: a straight and excellent road past the jail, and Messrs Tuback and Co.'s transit agency, leads direct to the cantonments, where both civil and military reside. The houses are good, but mostly without gardens. The barracks for the European troops are perhaps the finest in India. The church is a very handsome building within, but its steeple, being out of all proportion to so large an edifice, has an unpleasant effect. The province finds support for two bi-weekly newspapers, which are extremely well conducted, and have a remu-

nerative circulation. The military cantonment is a great straggling place, about five miles distant from the port, with scarcely a speck of vegetation about it, but traversed by good roads in all directions. The native town has a population of about 50,000 inhabitants, and its clean appearance is very creditable to the local authorities. The jail, which is situated near the native town, is a very extensive building, and contains workshops of every description. This establishment is admirably managed, after the system that was introduced some years ago with much success amongst the imprisoned Thuggs in the jail at Jubbulpore, and it is, I believe, nearly, if not altogether, self-supporting. Excellent tents are made here, and cotton cloths are manufactured in the jail; also various articles in silk and worsted of every description, and the establishment contains such expert smiths and carpenters, that very neat bullock carriages are built here. The discipline of the jail appears excellent, and the prisoners have a well-fed, healthy look. Some years ago considerable sickness and mortality prevailed in the jail at Hyderabad, consequent on the issue of bad food to the prisoners, through the dis-

honesty of the jailors, and it was supposed that the stoppage of their tobacco was also prejudicial to their health. The lower class of Mahomedans in Sindh are from infancy accustomed to smoking, and however poor an individual may be, he always has recourse to his pipe after meals; thus it is a necessary rather than a luxury to prisoners. Great reforms have since taken place in prison discipline, and the prisoners now receive one anna per diem subsistence money, which is quite sufficient for the purpose.

Kurrachee has a public garden, which produces good vegetables and flowers, but fruit is rarely procurable, and even plantains are brought from Bombay. On Sir Charles Napier's arrival at Kurrachee, which had then been four years in our possession, he found the 22nd foot suffering dreadfully from scurvy, in consequence of no vegetables being procurable. He immediately formed the Government garden, for the support of which the Government allowed sixty rupees per mensem, and in a very few months the produce of the garden realized 800 rupees a month, the soldiery being supplied gratis with all the vegetables they could consume. The Kurrachee Library and Museum and the Native

General Library, are well-managed establishments, and I must not forget to mention the Kurrachee Benevolent Association, and European and East Indian School, to which the rates of admission are small, and proportionate to the salaries of the fathers. In the commercial line, the Delhi bank agency, Messrs Tuback and Co., agents to the Bombay Steam Navigation and Transit Companies, and Treacher and Co., take the lead, but numerous Parsee and native firms carry on a very extensive trade with Bombay and the Persian Gulf, and the commerce of Kurrachee promises to become enormous when the railway to Kotree shall be completed. Silk loongees are here manufactured by about 30 families, and 20 more find employment in manufacturing the national cap.

The sea trade of Sindh has been gradually increasing for the last ten years; for example, in 1847-48, the imports amounted only to 28,78,720 rupees, and the exports to 15,47,308 rupees, whilst the imports for the year 1858-59, ending 30th April, 1859, amounted to 1,08,11,012 rupees, and the exports of the same year to 1,07,81,286 rupees. Thus showing a difference in the amount of imports of nearly eighty

lakhs of rupees between 1847-48 and 1858-59, a period of eleven years, and a difference in the amount of exports exceeding ninety-two lakhs of rupees, the particulars whereof will be found in Table A. of the Appendix.

At the time I landed in Sindh not a vessel had ever loaded there direct for England, although at that very moment four French vessels were loading there direct for Bordeaux; and as their commanders were residing in the same hotel as myself, we met at dinner every evening, and being conversant in their language, I heard all the commercial news of the port. These vessels were loading with oil-seeds, chiefly "Sesame," celebrated in the story of the "Forty Thieves," and by the Mahomedans of India known as "Til," and called "Gingely" at Madras. This seed, they informed me, fetched a good price at Bordeaux, where they mix the Sesame oil with that of olives, and export the mixture as genuine olive oil to other countries. Shortly after, British vessels with troops began to arrive, and then only did English vessels commence trading direct with England, and the trade has since been gradually increasing. For instance, in 1857-58 the value of the direct exports from

Sindh to England and France was 5,20,368 rupees, whilst in 1858-59 it amounted to 12,74,487 rupees, or one hundred and thirty-nine per cent. in excess of that of the preceding year, viz. to England 129 per cent. and 10 per cent. to France. In 1858-59 the arrivals in the port amounted to 90 square-rigged vessels and steamers, aggregating 49,930 tons, whilst the departures were 101, aggregating 56,554 tons. As these direct shipments increase, so will the commerce and agriculture of the province reap the benefit thereof, as a material saving must be the result of shipments direct to the countries of the consumers, for the demand will be proportionate to the cheapness of the article.

The great article of export at present is said to be horses. These, according to Sir Bartle Frere's report, are procurable in unlimited numbers from Affghanistan at £37 a head, on an average. A greater number of horses was brought down in 1858 than ever was known before, arising, I imagine, from their being in such extensive demand the preceding year, to mount five regiments of Dragoons that were on their way from England, and unusually large prices were in consequence given. On my

arrival at Kurrachee in December, 1857, I saw some 500 horses that were awaiting the arrival of the 7th Dragoon Guards, but I confess they appeared to me quite unfit for the purpose. These horses were shortly after transferred to the 17th Lancers, and the 7th were mounted on their arrival in the Punjaub, but I was told by a captain of the regiment they were so much *undermounted*, that after a march of twelve miles every horse in his squadron was knocked up. In short, the present state of the trade of Sindh, almost every branch of which is advancing by rapid strides, is eminently satisfactory, as its steady progress shows that the natives feel security and confidence in the Government. The effect of railways and improved river communication cannot be over-estimated, as tending to the prosperity of the province, and I hope to see Boydell's Traction Engine and endless railway at once introduced into all parts of the country where means of locomotion are wanting, for I consider that engine eminently and peculiarly calculated to prove serviceable in the level plains of Sindh. In fact, it would have been worth any money there at the time when means were

wanting to forward on troops and stores to Mooltan.

One of the main wants of Kurrachee is plenty of good water; at present it is very bad, and gave many of our servants diarrhœa; but that at Kotree is far worse, the wells there being so impregnated with salt, that this article is procured for the market by the evaporation of well water. The project for a canal between the Indus and Kurrachee is declared to be essential to the full success of the railway to Kotree, and it certainly is no less essential to the fair development of the resources of Kurrachee as a seaport, and to the agricultural prospects of the vast and at present unproductive plains in the vicinity of the Kurrachee market. Two years ago the want of water was severely felt in the city, and the population having since increased, the want has naturally become more pressing. To supply wholesome water for the troops and inhabitants, Sir Charles Napier projected turning the small river Mullear from a distance of twelve or fourteen miles into the town and cantonments of Kurrachee. For this purpose he caused levels to be taken and a plan laid down. The water was further to be conveyed

by pipes to Keymaree Point, whereby the shipping would have been at once supplied with excellent water. The facility of executing this great work was ascertained, but though the estimated cost did not exceed one thousand pounds a mile, the Government would not sanction such expenditure.

About eight miles from Kurrachee is the *Muggur Talao*, or Alligator Tank, the sight of which is well worth the trouble of a morning's canter, though the sterile aspect of the plain through which the track lies is not particularly inviting. The tank, which is concealed in a thick grove, is of no great size, and at first sight there was nothing to denote the presence of its inhabitants. An old Faquir, who resides on the spot, does the honours of the *Muggur Talao* for a trifling consideration. On this worthy shouting "Ao! Ao!" "Come! Come!" the surface of the pool became alive with alligators of all sizes, which hastened out on the bank to be fed. The Faquir then called out "Baetho," "Sit down;" and, obedient to the order, down the monsters lay, with extended jaws awaiting their expected reward, and a sheep having been killed in readiness, large pieces of flesh were thrown to them,

for which they fought and struggled with ravenous fury. The sight was disgusting, and although the Faquir declared that no danger was to be apprehended from them, I did not half like their looks, and afterwards learned from the local papers that several accidents occurred during my stay in Sindh. These alligators are said to be held sacred by the more bigoted natives, but as the destruction of one of the animals was not long since condoned for a small pecuniary donation, I apprehend that they are really held in less veneration than is generally supposed.

I may here mention an extraordinary fight between a large alligator and a tiger, which was witnessed by a friend of mine some years since in the Nerbudda, when stationed at Gorraworra with his regiment, the 42nd Madras Native Infantry. My friend was a thorough sportsman in all ways, and described the terrific combat that he saw between the two monsters, for so they might well be called, both the tiger and alligator being of the largest size, in this wise:—

"I was stationed with my regiment at Hussingabad a few years ago, and we had capital sport of all kinds within easy access of the can-

tonment, where having little duty to perform after our review was over, I was almost constantly in the jungle, and during the cold season bagged a large quantity of hog, antelope, and small game. In April, when the hot weather set in,—and that is the time for sport, if you can but stand exposure at such a season, for the hot wind blows like a furnace blast,—I was ordered on detachment to Nursingpoor or Gorraworra, a wild out-of-the-way place on the Nerbudda, surrounded with dense jungle, swarming with tigers. No elephants being available, and the jungle of vast extent and very thick, I could only get at the tigers by means of a *Gara*,* or by lying in wait near the spots where they resorted for water; and as all the Nullahs were then dry, save here and there a more than usually deep hole, which still contained a small quantity of water, the large animals were sure to visit such spots at night to allay their thirst. I therefore made my *Shikaree*, or hunter, have some small platforms, called Munchans, constructed in suitable trees, commanding those watering-places. The previous monsoon had been scanty, and the season, being unusually hot,

* A bullock picketed as a bait for tigers.

was the more favourable for the sportsman, and I thus managed to kill a vast quantity of spotted deer and hog, with several tigers, a large bear, and three chetahs; but it was hard work sitting up watching, night after night, in a *Munchau*, and I dare say that I missed many shots from sheer drowsiness, though the *Shikaree* and myself watched in turn.

The Nerbudda, which when full is a fine body of water at that place, was then for three-fourths of its width a vast bed of sand, the stream being only about a quarter its usual breadth; but at the turns in the river there were very extensive pools of great depth, abounding with fish of all kinds, especially that lordly fish the Mahseer, the salmon of India, turtle of vast bulk, and the most enormous alligators that I ever saw. With the Mahseer I occasionally flirted by way of change, and, being well provided with fishing tackle, had good sport, but with a jungle at hand filled with large game, I preferred the rifle to the rod. My most favourite hiding-place was near one of these pools, where the jungle extended almost to the water-side, from which pathways led down to it, and those paths were well marked by the foot-prints of different animals.

There, in a suitable tree, I had a *Munchan* erected, well above the pool, and commanding all the approaches. I was snugly seated therein one evening shortly after sunset, and had just laid down a newly-received number of Blackwood, when the *Shikaree* exclaimed, "Listen, Sahib!" I did listen, and such dreadful sounds I never heard before or since. At first they appeared to come from a great distance, but gradually came nearer, and the mingled roaring and groans of a tiger were then distinctly audible. "What can be the cause of this?" inquired I of the *Shikaree*. "I think it is a tiger that has been poisoned, Sahib," said my companion; "the villagers often poison them when they destroy too many of their cattle." After a short time a very large tiger appeared, foaming at the mouth, his coat staring, and the whole appearance of the animal evincing the most intense suffering. Rushing towards the river, the tiger plunged in and commenced lapping the water with greedy avidity, as if to allay the burning fire raging within from the effects of the poison. He then came out and commenced rolling on the ground and biting at the bushes, seemingly in the most dreadful agony. A second time he dashed into the

river, as though about to swim across, and I was preparing to end his sufferings with a rifle ball, when a monstrous alligator, I should say nearly twenty feet in length, presented itself to view, and making a rush at the tiger, seized him in his jaws. Then ensued the tug of war, for the tiger at once seemed to forget his previous sufferings, and met his antagonist with equal ferocity. The monsters grappled with each other, causing the waters to fly about as though worked by the paddle of a steamer. Down they both went—again they rose, each maintaining his deadly gripe of the other animal. Again they sunk, and then again they rose, but the tiger was now evidently half drowned and greatly weakened by loss of blood, which dyed the surface of the water, added to the effects of the poison. Even too had the tiger been in full strength, I doubt whether he would have been a match for the alligator in the element most natural to the latter; but as it was he had no chance, for his claws seemed to make no impression whatever on the mailed carcase of the alligator. The tiger was at length quite powerless, and the alligator partially raised himself out of the water to take his dying enemy

down, but in doing so laid his side well open to a shot from my rifle, which took effect just behind and underneath the shoulder, where it is unprotected by the mail which covers his body elsewhere. The ball passed through a vital part, and the monster at once turned belly upwards, being, the villagers declared, the largest alligator that had ever been killed there. A second ball then finished the sufferings of the tiger."

The Chief Commissioner and his staff were unfortunately absent on duty in Upper Sindh on our arrival at Kurrachee, but his subordinates, both civil and military, showed every civility and attention to the Meer, and indeed went out of their way to accommodate His Highness, by affording a passage for his suite in the river steamers, at a time when those vessels were much required for the conveyance of troops and stores. On the day of our landing very sinister accounts were current, and considerable alarm was felt at a rumour that ten thousand insurgents were advancing on Hyderabad, about a hundred miles distant, where we had only 400 European troops. A wing of H. M.'s 7th Fusileers was accordingly pushed on, and a troop of Horse

Artillery ordered to follow. The report however proved entirely without foundation.

Four days after our landing at Kurrachee, the Meer's eldest son, Meer Shah Nowaz Khan, and his two youngest brothers, arrived from Khyrpoor. The former is a very handsome young man, but his younger brothers are "fat boys." They were attended by about a hundred horsemen, and having marched at the rate of thirty-five miles a day, the appearance of the cortége was not particularly imposing. His Highness being apprised of his sons' approach, was evidently affected, but seemed to consider it inconsistent with his dignity to display any parental feeling. He accordingly seated himself on a couch, and gravely awaited the approach of the young princes, who hurried upstairs in order of seniority, and, prostrating themselves before their father, embraced his knees, and appeared delighted to behold him again. The room was presently filled with the principal of their followers, the rest remaining with the horses, which were picketed outside in front of the Bungalow. I certainly never saw a more dirty set of ragamuffins than these

first specimens of the chivalry of Sindh. It is however hardly fair upon that country so to call them, as very few of Meer Ali Moorad's retainers are natives of the province, His Highness hardly employing any natives of Sindh in his service. Their horses were mostly miserable as regards appearance and condition, but these wretched-looking creatures, as I afterwards found, are capable of extraordinary endurance of fatigue.

It having been decided by the Military and Marine Authorities that the Meer's suite should be accommodated on one of the river steamers, which was about to take up the officers of the Sindh Survey department, I was directed to proceed in charge of His Highness' valuables, the Meer travelling by land, with his sons, in order to enjoy field sports, on his way along the skirts of the Lukhee mountains to Sehwan. We accordingly embarked on the *Frere* steamer upon the 21st December, which put to sea at 3 o'clock in the morning, but the weather was so threatening that her commander deemed it prudent to return, as those shallow flat-bottomed river-steamers are not at all calculated for encountering rough weather at sea, and between the har-

bour of Kurrachee and the Hujamree mouth of the Indus is not far short of a hundred miles of sea passage. The entrance into the Hujamree Channel is marked by a beacon and posts showing the channel to be followed. A pilot establishment is also maintained at Khetti for the guidance of vessels over the bar and up the Hujamree to that place. We reached the mouth of the Hujamree Channel about 3 p. m., and the Flat which we had in tow astern was then brought up alongside. On inquiring the cause of this arrangement I was informed by Captain M'Neil, the commander of the *Frere*, that a Flat cannot be towed astern of a steamer in many parts of the Indus, in consequence of the sharpness and suddenness of the turns, which the navigable portion of the river makes in its course, whereby a vessel towed astern must be continually grounded, from inability to follow in the exact track of the steamer ahead. This led me to ask him what he thought of Mr Bourne's projected plan, as announced in the newspapers. His reply was that it could not possibly answer, as, if a single Flat could not follow in the wake of a steamer, it was quite impossible that a train of barges, on Mr

Bourne's plan, could do so, and three other commanders, whom I afterwards spoke to on the subject, confirmed Captain M'Neil's opinion.

The Flats in use on the Indus are large iron vessels, built expressly for the conveyance of troops and stores, for which they seem well adapted. The *Frere* was a perfectly new iron vessel, 164 feet in length, 28 in beam, and drawing 3 ft. 9 in. water, but this was found too much, as in places we had barely a depth of four feet. Her saloon was large enough to accommodate twenty-four persons, and the cabins on either side were very comfortable. About an hour before sunset we anchored close to the shore, and planks were laid from the vessel to the bank, for the natives to land and cook their meals. The passengers' dinner was then announced and all our party assembled. It consisted of Captain Macdonald, chief of the Sindh Survey, his deputy, Mr Lane and family, Lieut. Harris, of the Horse Artillery, a young lady, Mr.—,and myself. The table was not over-well supplied, considering the amount charged under the authority of Government, viz. four rupees per diem for each first-class passenger, half that amount for each child under twelve years of age, and one rupee

for each child under six do. Second class European passengers are allowed to mess with the warrant officers, or, if they prefer it, to provide their own food.

Immediately after dinner most of the passengers landed to look about them, whilst the wooding of the steamer was going on. Our rambles however were not very extended, for there was little to tempt one in the appearance of the country; but we walked up to a *Waud*, or temporary village, which with its occupants exhibited a deplorable degree of wretchedness, though the soil appeared a shade less barren than about Kurrachee, and a few buffaloes and inferior camels were to be seen. Here I shall briefly notice the small ports or Bunders near the mouths of the Indus.

Ghizree Bunder is situated at the base of the Clifton Hill, south-east of the town of Kurrachee, from which it is distant about four miles. This port offers a safe anchorage for boats, and facilities for landing and shipping cargo.

Wugoder is distant about sixteen miles from Kurrachee, and is situated on Gharr Creek, one of the tidal channels. This Bunder is chiefly

resorted to by the river boats, which, being flat-bottomed, cannot always make Ghizree.

Khetti is the chief port on the Indus for river and sea-going boats. Gorabaree, or Vikhur, was formerly the port, but since 1851 has been abandoned in consequence of the shallowness of the water. At Khetti the want of fresh water is also greatly felt by the inhabitants.

Seir Gunga is situated on a branch of the river called Seir or Goongara, and is the outlet for the produce of the Jathee Pergunnah.

Such is a general view of the ports of the Indus, which a little below Tattah divides into two principal branches; between these lies the Delta, occupying a space of about seventy miles. The Indus pours forth its water through eleven mouths, which are more or less open to navigation, though some of the branches are at times completely dry, and others contain so small a quantity of water that a man can walk across.

As we ascended the Indus its water reminded me much of the Nile, having the same pea-soupy look as the water of that river, being charged with the like fertilizing matter, which renders all lands productive when brought

within its influence, either naturally, or by the canals which intersect the country in all directions. There are many points of resemblance between Sindh and Egypt, and amongst them that particular feature in those districts of both which border on the Nile and Indus, the surface of the country being highest on the river banks and sloping gradually away, as though expressly formed by nature for the purpose of artificial irrigation.

At Tatta, sixty miles from the mouth of the river, we stopped a short time for the purpose of wooding. The town of Tatta, which was once a considerable place of trade, is about three miles distant from the Bunder or port. Three of the Meer's servants here thought fit to disobey my orders by going on shore at this place, and were consequently left behind; we saw them running along the bank for some distance, but the steamer soon left them in the rear, as commanders are prohibited from delaying their vessels by stopping to pick up stray passengers. Tatta was formerly celebrated for its manufactures and trade, but those palmy days have departed. Sixty years ago it contained 80,000 inhabitants and kept 3000 looms

in employ, but the rich fabrics of silk, cotton, gold tissue, and embroidery, for which it was famous, are now procurable with difficulty, there being no demand. This city was formerly the seat of the Mahomedan government in Sindh, and contains the ruins of a fine Mosque, built in the time of Aurungzeb, and in the vicinity are the ruins of an ancient fortified town called Kullian Kot. The excessive unhealthiness of the climate has, I imagine, been mainly instrumental in the decline of Tatta.

Antiquarians declare that Tatta, or Debeil, is the ancient Pattala, simply from its being situated at the apex of the Delta, but Captain Postans justly observes, that, "as the shifting character of the river daily removes this town further from the stream, two thousand years may be fairly considered too long a period to admit of speculation as to its position at the time of Alexander's march." So I think but little dependence can be placed on a speculation based on so unstable a foundation. Those acquainted with the Indus must remember two remarkable looking rocks, which in the end of 1858 were situated about mid-channel, at a short distance below Tatta; yet I was assured by the com-

mander of the steamer, that in 1850 those rocks were so far inland as to be hardly visible; such is the shifting character of the Indus,—indeed the sands are so continually shifting that the lead must ever be kept going. No one could be more watchful than our commander on this point; but still the *Frere* once touched the ground, though she was speedily afloat again. The navigable channel in this part of the river is described as presenting generally the form of a narrow gut, with abruptly rising sides, the remaining bed of the river forming a broad but shallow expanse of water. The banks of the Indus, like those of the Nile, bear traces of the periodical overflow, being marked by a succession of ridges, as each layer of mud has dried on the preceding one. There is not, however, that appearance of agricultural wealth in Sindh that the banks of the Nile and the lands adjacent thereto afford, though rich cultivation is certainly to be found at a short distance from the Indus. Above Tatta we observed much improvement in the appearance of the country through which we steamed; the river became wider, its banks higher, and some reaches displayed really pretty scenery, having on either

side vast shikargahs, in which the finest tree is the acacia arabica, which yields the gum arabic. These trees are occasionally of great size, beautiful in foliage, and exhale a delicious perfume. Their timber is also valuable for building and wheelwright's purposes; but on this, and the value of acacia bark for tanning, I shall dilate hereafter. The acacia also supplies the best fuel for the steamers.

A short distance below Jerruk the mast of the steamer *Meteor* is still visible above water. This vessel struck on a sunken rock and went down, but her engines were rescued from the wreck, though the vessel became so embedded in the sand, that it was found impossible to raise her, notwithstanding that the water which covered her did not exceed nine feet in depth.

Jerruk, situated above Tatta, on the same bank of the river, is a neat, pretty town, on a commanding site, upon a ledge of rocky hills overlooking the stream. This is the head-quarters of the deputy collector of the district, and being on a branch line of the railway, the port of Jerruk will probably soon rise in importance.

CHAPTER IV.

Hyderabad—Kotree—The Sindh Railway—Dangerous Navigation of the Lower Indus—Roses of Kotree—The Commerce of Sindh—Native Craft—Unwieldy Boats—State Barge of the Ameers—Wolves and Jackalls—Nara—Sehwan—An Ancient Fortification—Lukkee Hills—Curious Petrifactions—Sehwan District, finest in Sindh—Description of the Hill Tracts—The Alluvial Plain of Sindh—The Great Desert—Northern Sindh—Climate of Sindh—Diseases—Hot Winds—Lake Manchur—Larkhana Bunder—Sukkur—Traveller's Bungalow—A Visit of Ceremony—Tombs—River Scenery—Roree—Bukkur—Ghats, or Landing Places—Sindh Police Corps—Magisterial and Police Departments—Sir Bartle Frere's Minute on the Sindh Police.

SEVENTY miles above Tatta is Kotree, on the right bank of the Indus, and immediately opposite is Hyderabad, which was the capital of Central Sindh during the government of the Ameers.

Hyderabad, which was founded by Gholaum Shah Kalora, stands on the extremity of a range of Limestone hills on the eastern bank of the Indus. The fort and citadel, which last is of great height, tower above the city and have a picturesque appearance from the river. The

Fullailee, a branch of the Indus, washes the base of the fortress, and is bordered by gardens, with luxuriant vegetation. The city consists of one long street or bazaar, extending in the direction of the Indus, which is about three miles distant. Hyderabad is the head-quarters of the collectorate, and its prosperity will probably be greatly increased on the completion of the railway to Kotree. Westward of the town are some fine tombs of the Talpoor chiefs, containing marble fretwork of exquisite beauty. Hereabouts stood the ancient city of Khodabad, which some of the Sindh Brahmans contend to have been Brahmanabad.

Kotree, the head-quarters of the Indus flotilla, organised by Sir Charles Napier, which is commanded by Captain Daniell of the Indian navy, is the upper terminus of the Sindh railway, by which stores will be transmitted from Kurrachee in one day to this port, for shipment on the river steamers. At one time fears were entertained for the safety of Kotree, as during the inundations the river washed away great part of the bank, but Sir Charles Napier caused piles to be driven down, backed with brushwood, and it is now perfectly secure.

There can be no doubt that this railway, which is 110 miles in length, will exert a powerful influence in promoting the development of the trade of Upper Sindh, as goods and produce will be brought down to Kotree by country boats, and there landed and at once conveyed to Kurrachee by rail, thereby avoiding all the difficult and dangerous navigation of the Lower Indus, the annual losses of which are so very large from the accidents that take place in threading the narrow channels of the Delta, that Major Preedy, late collector of Kurrachee, declares in his report, "that if one or two boats only, out of a batch of six or so, are lost, it is considered a good venture." "This line too," says Mr Andrew, in his valuable work on the Sindh railway, "will place Kurrachee, the only seaport of Sindh, in communication with the Indus, the great commercial artery of the countries on our north-west frontier, at a point where the river becomes free from the intricacies, dangers, and delays of the passage of the Delta." This is undeniable, and the political and commercial advantages which may be looked for from this undertaking, would seem to be not at all over-estimated in the despatches of the

Chief Commissioner of Sindh, and the reports of the Engineer officers by whom the country has been surveyed, both of which will be found in the Appendix, marked B. C.

Kotree is an extremely pretty place, stretching along the side of the river, with excellent roads, and very nice gardens to most of the Bungalows. Apropos of gardens, the roses of Kotree are especially fine, and Indian roses possess far more fragrance than those of England. The climate of this station is well spoken of by the residents, but when I was there they were few in number. The Bungalow next to that occupied by the Chaplain is very neatly fitted up for the performance of divine service, which we attended therein on the Sunday after Christmas-day. The Hospital is a fine airy building close to the river, and I have reason to speak well of its management, from the attention that was paid therein to a sick servant of the Meer, during our stay. Dr Niven, of the Bombay establishment, is at present in medical charge of the Indus flotilla.

The town of Kotree is particularly clean, and its municipal arrangements are all that could be desired. The Indus here forms a noble sheet

of water, and the view of the opposite shore is very interesting. It is a pity that in building steamers heretofore for the Indus flotilla, the opinions of experienced commanders have not been consulted, as the vessels last launched, the *Frere, Lawrence, &c.*, are declared by most of them ill calculated for the navigation of the Upper Indus, having been built for the double purpose of threading the narrow channels of the Delta and getting round by sea to Kurrachee; but now that the river steamers will only be required to ply between Kotree and Mooltan, a distance of 570 miles of comparatively open navigation, the vessels best adapted for that portion of the Indus,—and such ought not to exceed two feet in draught,—will of course be constructed in future. It will not be out of place here to give an extract from a very able letter on the Navigation of the Indus and the Commerce of Sindh, which appeared in the *Star* of the 29th of October last under the signature of "a Merchant:"—

"I have been for years connected with the trade of Kurrachee, and can state that the rapid increase in the trade of that port is without precedent in India;—to no fortuitous cause, says an

official paper, can this great increase be attributed. It is perfectly natural, and must prove how vast the resources of a country must be, the export trade of which in two years has nearly doubled itself. The illustrious conqueror of Sindh predicted the future greatness of Kurrachee, which from its geographical position, and other advantages, appears designed to eclipse all other Indian ports, Calcutta alone excepted.

"By recent advices I can assure you that Bombay merchants are purchasing land and erecting buildings, and making other arrangements to establish branch houses at Kurrachee.

"There are besides several independent British merchants settled there, with whom I am in correspondence. The price of land for building purposes is rapidly rising, and the population is increasing with extraordinary rapidity. By the last mail there were in the harbour at one time thirty square-rigged vessels from Europe and two steamers swinging at their anchors. The Government Indus steamers have not financially failed, but they are ill-adapted to their work, as any boat must be that attempts to do what requires opposite conditions, as re-

quired in the sea and Delta navigation, which Mr Bourne appears to have found to his cost.

"It is incorrect to state that Mr Andrews' boats are similar to those of the Government. The latter are deficient in power, and having to perform the sea voyage from Kurrachee to one of the mouths of the Indus, they necessarily draw too much water, and are otherwise ill-adapted to navigate the shallow waters of the Indus above the Delta. It is to be borne in mind that Mr Andrews' flotilla will neither have to encounter the sea, nor the dangers incidental to Delta navigation, as they will start from Hyderabad, the upper terminus of the Sindh railway, the principal object of which is to connect the port of Kurrachee with the Indus above the Delta, substituting 100 miles of railway for 230 miles of dangerous sea and Delta navigation. One of Mr Andrews' boats was publicly tested on the Thames, and was found to have great power, combined with a draught of only one foot ten inches, and was pronounced by Colonel Turner, chief engineer of the province, and Sir Proby Cautley, to be the best boat hitherto built for the navigation of the north of India.

"Sir John Lawrence has declared steamers on the Indus to be one of the crying wants of the Punjaub, and that they and the railway would do more for the country than any number of public works that could be devised."

Coal has been discovered within a moderate distance of Kotree, but not, I should say, of superior quality; at least so I judge, from a trial of it on board the *Conqueror* on coming down the river, as it threw out but little heat, and the smell and smoke were offensive,—indeed our commander declared that wood was far preferable. As, however, the latter description of fuel is, I understand, beginning to run short, the newly-found coal will be of value, at any rate, either for the railway or the steamers.

We reached Kotree on Christmas-day, and an express having arrived directing the immediate embarkation of the 7th Royal Fusiliers in the *Frere*, and its attendant flat, we were obliged to turn out, but Captain Daniell very obligingly accommodated us in the *Nimrod*, which is I believe the fastest vessel on the river. It will be remembered that the *Nimrod* was one of Colonel Chesney's vessels on the Euphrates and Tigris expedition, and so small was she

that we were obliged to leave some of our baggage to follow on camels. In fact there was barely room on deck for the passengers to lie down at night, but as the weather was bitterly cold, the crowded state of the boat was of comparatively little importance.

We quitted Kotree on the morning of the 29th December, having dropped some of our passengers at Hyderabad. The *Jhelum* steamer with troops was half a day's steaming ahead, and the *Frere*, with the Fusiliers, started just after the *Nimrod;* we soon, however, outstripped the larger vessel, which had a flat in tow. The mouth of the Fullailee, in which the glorious battle of Meeanee was fought, was pointed out as we steamed rapidly along, passing numerous boats of great size, laden with Government stores and mess supplies, that were slowly making their way against the stream, whilst others heavily laden with grain or other goods for exportation were dropping down the river. The form of these vessels has probably not undergone much change since the days of Nearchus, and most unwieldy affairs do they appear. The boat in common use for transport on the Lower Indus, says Captain Postans, is the

"*Dundi*, which is flat-bottomed, with a slight convex inclination for the additional facility of getting off sand-banks, as when aground it is made to spin round on its centre by the force of the current, whilst a completely flat-bottomed boat would hold to the ground, and it would be next to impossible to remove a heavy-laden boat once thoroughly embedded in a soft sand-bank of the Indus. The stern and fore-part of the *Dundi* are flat and slope inwards, the former being at a considerable angle to the surface of the water, and somewhat higher than the surface of the boat: there is also a slight decrease in the breadth of its extremities; one of the advantages of a sloping front is the facility afforded for running in on the banks, when required to *luggao* [or fasten to the shore], or for parrying the shock when forcibly driven on it. The rudder is very large, and shipped as usual, or often in heavy boats by a complicated system of ropes and poles, which work outside the stern, the steersman holding both ends of the pole, increasing his labour to a great extent. The mast is stepped very far forward on strong cross beams and is removable at pleasure: the sail is of the lightest material and

oblong, always placed behind the mast and stretched between two thin poles; it can only be used with the wind nearly aft and light, for a stiff breeze would destroy the whole tackle. The size of these boats varies from ten to one hundred tons: the ropes are of the coir or cocoa-nut fibre, and from the difficulty of procuring any large timber, the whole is constructed of small pieces of the wood of the country, fastened together with pegs, often of bamboo, iron being only used to secure the ribs and knees; so weak is the whole affair that during the floods it is calculated some forty or fifty boats are lost in the lower part of the river annually. The *Dundi* consists of three distinct parts, the two sides and bottom, the latter being adjusted to the others by warping the others up to the slope required, and then strengthened with joints or ribs [as they are termed],—the boat thus admits of being dismembered and transported;—a corroboration of the accuracy of Alexander's historians, who describe the same process, as may to this day be seen on this river. The dangers of Indus navigation to native craft are increased by logs of wood fixing in the sand-banks and projecting their points upwards, called on the

Mississippi and American rivers 'snaggs;' an unfortunate *Dundi*, or *Zoruk*, if caught by one of these is soon a wreck.

"In tracking against the stream the rope is passed through a hole in the top of the mast, and then connected with the stern post; considerable length is allowed to permit the boat to shoot into deep water, and on tracking near the banks, shoals are announced by the leading tracker, when the spare rope is given out and the boat flies off into the deep stream. These ropes continually break, particularly in attempting to turn points round which the stream rushes with great force, and thus a mile or two, the best portion perhaps of a day's labour, is lost, for it is no easy matter to arrest the progress of a craft when once the stream has caught her. The number of trackers varies with the size of the craft, but is generally very inadequate to the work to be performed."

The same author expresses it as his opinion that the shape of the *Dundi* is well adapted to the navigation of the Indus, and were it intended to increase the number of sailing boats on the river, the *Dundi* of more durable materials might

well be adhered to. In 1853, according to an official return, 1852 *Dundis* were employed on the river, of the estimated capacity of 463,220 maunds, or 17,016 tons. There is another description of boat peculiar to the Sutlej called the *Zoruk*, which is to be seen, however, all along the Indus. It differs from the *Dundi* in having no elevation at the stern, is rounded off a little fore and aft, but does not taper in at those points like the Sindh boats, and is, if possible, more fragile in its build. In floating down the stream the mast of the boat is lowered, and the boat is both steered and propelled by two large oars placed exactly in the centre of the stern, and worked backwards and forwards by two or more men, according to the size of the craft. A boat will make about sixty miles per day with the stream, but remains anchored during the night. At Kotree I saw one of the Jumptees, or State barges of the Ameers, an unwieldy looking affair, about 120 feet in length, having pavilions at either extremity, the foremost of which was the place of honour, as it was occupied by the Princes during their hunting excursions. These vessels had two masts, but when the wind did not serve were propelled by twelve enormous

sweeps, each requiring about twenty men. The decks on such occasions were crowded with retainers in gay apparel, and the pavilions covered with scarlet cloth, with the Ameers' standards floating at the stern. The steersman, who occupied an elevated position on the top of the sternmost pavilion, being responsible for the safety of his royal masters, was considered a most important personage.

As we ascended the Indus we observed numerous alligators, or rather I should say crocodiles, or gurryals, not the maggur of India, as also abundance of ducks, geese, and wild fowl, much resembling those of Egypt, and I am mistaken if I did not see several specimens of the Ibys. One morning indeed, just as we were getting up our steam, a large alligator dashed out from under the paddle-box. Towards evening we occasionally saw some gaunt wolves and many mangy-looking jackals, ranging the banks in quest of food. Apropos of wolves, upwards of 600 poor children are reported to have been destroyed by wolves around Lahore and Sealkote in 1855.

About thirty miles above Hyderabad we passed Hala, a place celebrated for its beautiful

encaustic tiles, and finely glazed vases, bowls, dishes, &c., made from the clay of the Indus, the finer kinds mixed with ground flints.

At Sehwan, the capital of Sewistan, we remained just long enough to take a hasty look at that interesting old place. Here a spur of the Lukhee range runs down close to the river, and on its extremity, which juts over the water, stands the town. At this place is an old fortification, which antiquarians imagine had its origin in Alexander's expedition; and Sehwan has always been considered a place of military importance, as commanding the passage of the Indus. The country here assumes a very different appearance to the features of Lower Sindh,—the general character of which, as viewed from the river from Jerruk upwards, presents dense masses of trees contained in the Shikargahs, sand-hills and lime-stone ridges, with a scanty population. At Sehwan the Lukhee hills extend down to the river, forcing it into a deep and rapid channel on the eastern side; so rapid indeed is the stream at this place as occasionally to cause the banks to give way, and produce serious damage. The hills which surround Sehwan give it a very

picturesque aspect, and the old fort is in itself an object of interest to the traveller. Alexander the Great built a tower on this spot, which commands the river, but these ruins are probably of much more recent date. The Hala mountains are, I am told, covered with petrifactions, which on being cut through are found to contain marine insects, although upwards of 200 miles from the sea.

The Sehwan district is one of the richest in all Sindh, and contains the finest wheat land in the province, vast crops of which grain are produced in the tracts adjacent to the Munchur lake. The town of Sehwan has a well-supplied bazaar, and the demand is considerable in consequence of the number of pilgrims and Faquirs, who resort to the tomb of the celebrated Lal Shah Baz, a saint who seems to be held as a favourite equally with Hindoos and Mahomedans. The town is consequently infested with religious mendicants, and is pre-eminently distinguished for heat, filth, and immorality. About a mile above Sehwan is a ferry across the Indus, and, when the river is low, good roads exist on both banks.

Northern Sindh, which extends from Sehwan

to Subzukcote, is almost an uninterrupted level, through which the Indus takes its course. Immediately above the Pass of Sehwan, that great branch of the river known as the "Narra," or Snake, quits the main stream, and after passing through Lake Munchur, an expanse of water about 300 square miles in extent, again joins the Indus at a distance of 280 miles. This renders the district the most productive of any in Sindh, and Lake Munchur itself is especially worthy of notice, as, according to Captain Postans, "it forms a fair expanse of clear, transparent water, lying beneath the mountains and surrounded by rich foliage; its still, deep, central channel, tangled with lotus flowers, amongst the dark plants of which rest the small boats that form the floating habitations of many Sindhian families, who subsist on the fish which here abounds, and the innumerable varieties of water-fowl that crowd its margin." The same author also remarks that the interior of the country between Lake Munchur and the sea is in its general appearance far superior to any scenery to be found on the river-banks. The soil is hard and the roads good; there are occasional ranges of hills, and small lakes sur-

rounded with cypress-trees; and a greater degree of cultivation is to be found, but this is only the case in the winter, or dry season, as, after the inundation the whole country becomes like the Delta, a mere swamp, where travelling is impossible, and malaria abundant.

I am indebted to an official Report for the following description of the hill tracts, river alluvium, and the desert:—

"*Description of the Hill Tracts.*—The hill tracts are outlying branches of the great range which runs unbroken, unless for the narrow mountain passes from Peshawur to Cape Monze. On the north-western frontier they are beyond the border. More to the southward they fringe the districts of Larkhana and Mehur. Near Sehwan they turn eastward and abut on the river, which they do not leave for any great distance until they reach the latitude of Tattah, whence they tend towards the west and branch out into the ocean near Kurrachee. This western region (so much of it as falls within the boundary of Sindh) is of singularly bare and savage aspect. The valleys and plains rise to 1000 feet above the Indus, while the hill ranges are from 1500 to 2000 feet above the valleys. The formation,

of stratified limestone, bears marks of violent volcanic action. The springs are mostly thermal; and are all more or less impregnated with sulphur. Rain is uncertain and scanty, especially away from the coast. Pasturage, though scattered, is nourishing, and sheep and goats thrive among the bare hills. Horned cattle are rarely seen, horses are in little use, and even the camel is not common.

"*General character of the alluvial plain of Sindh, and notice of the river alluvium.*—The general character of the alluvial plain of Sindh has been so often described that its principal features are well known. Formed from the washings of the mountains whence the Indus and its tributaries take their rise, the process of formation is still going on. As the sediment brought down by the river is deposited in the beds of all the streams through which the volume of the river-water seeks its way to the ocean, these beds gradually silt up, until the streams, unable to find a fall along their old channels, force their way along other depressions of country. Under the operation of this law, the main river and all its offshoots are perpetually changing their courses, and thereby perpetually changing the

aspect of the plain. There is scarcely a mile of land in Sindh which does not bear evidence of the effects of this law, whose workings are moreover distinctly visible in the beds of every natural and artificial water-course in the country.

"*Description of the Eastern Boundary.*—The Great Desert forms the eastern boundary of Sindh from its most northern frontier, in contiguity with the Bhawulpoor state, until the Runn of Cutch to the southward. This waste is variously called in different latitudes; in the parallel of Jeysulmeer it bears the name of that place; lower down it is known as the Omerkote Desert; and on the borders of Cutch it is at present recognised as the Thurr and Parkur Districts. Its appearance is that of a succession of huge and stationary waves of sand, whose slopes are to the south and westward in the direction of the prevailing winds, while to the north and eastward they present abrupt bluffs. The hollows intermediate between these sand-hills, more especially those adjacent to the alluvial plain, are cultivable, and constitute the only fields of the nomadic tribes inhabiting these wastes."

The climate of Sindh generally is supposed to be trying to the constitution, notwithstanding that native geographers declare that "Sindh is blessed with a fine climate, the lower part being cool, the upper hot, the mornings generally fresh and invigorating." It certainly is true that the morning air is cool, but a country so subject to transitions of heat and cold as Upper Sindh, with the malaria that arises from swamps for a large portion of the year, can hardly be congenial to any constitution. The Afghans and northern tribes have such a dread of the climate of Sindh, that they have a proverb expressing that "the sun of Sindh will turn a white man black, and is sufficiently powerful to roast an egg." The latter is nothing more than the truth, but the like has, I believe, occurred in Europe. Upper Sindh, although infinitely hotter than the lower division of the province, is more healthy, which is attributable to the greater dryness of the atmosphere. The dews in Lower Sindh are excessively heavy, and exposure to them is extremely injurious to health. The inhabitants of some of the crowded bazaars of the larger towns evince, by their haggard looks, the impurity of the atmosphere in which they live.

Dropsy and enlarged spleen are common diseases, but the climate is, perhaps, less answerable for disease than the habits of the people themselves. Rain is unusual in Upper Sindh; in fact, during the eight months I was at Khyrpoor less than two inches of rain fell, but the excessive heat was at times mitigated by dust storms, which, though very unpleasant whilst they lasted, always caused a great diminution of heat. The hot winds are very dangerous to those who are exposed to them, and the natives themselves avoid such exposure as much as possible.

A short distance above Sehwan we came within sight of His Highness Meer Ali Moorad's south-western frontier, which extends nearly to the river in the vicinity of Doulutpoor, just north of which are the valuable districts of Noushera and Kundiara, of which the Ameer, as I have before stated, was most unjustly deprived by the British Government.

Passing onward about 110 miles we reached Larkhana Bunder,—so called after the tribe of Larukh,—the head-quarters of the Larkhana deputy collectorate, one of the most productive districts of Sindh, as its cultivators

are the most intelligent and wealthy in the province. The yield of corn in this district is mainly dependent on artificial irrigation, derived from the Gharr, a broad and natural branch of the Indus, flowing through it, which throws off several minor channels. This stream has been recently connected with the western Narra, and the results show the great returns derivable from a public work well conceived and judiciously executed, for in a single season this new cut has paid eightfold its own cost! The canals in the district are in thorough order; direct roads, well bridged, intersect the country wherever requisite. Sixty miles above Larkhana, at a sudden bend in the stream, we came in sight of a lofty minaret or tower, ninety feet in height, which overlooks the town of Sukkur and is visible at a considerable distance.

We reached Sukkur on the afternoon of the 3rd January, and bidding adieu to the *Nimrod* established ourselves in the Travellers' Bungalow, a tolerably comfortable building, consisting of a large hall, with verandahs front and rear, and two bed-rooms, and baths on either side; the whole fitted with glass windows, which are quite essential to comfort in a land

of dust-storms. The out-offices were spacious, and afforded shelter to all our followers and the Meer's live and dead stock. The bungalow was in charge of a Portuguese butler, whom we always found obliging when sober, but unluckily he was generally in his cups towards evening, when he quarrelled and fought with our own major domo, albeit a Portuguese of Goa, like himself. On the morning after our arrival we had a visit of ceremony from the son and Goomashtah of Hote Singh, the Meer's confidential man in pecuniary matters. Those worthies brought the usual offering of sweetmeats, fruit, &c., and were very obliging; at my request they despatched a *Sarnee Sowar*, or camel hurkaru, as we should style him in India, in search of the Meer, to whom I wrote for instructions regarding his servants. Three days afterwards a Persian letter arrived from His Highness' Mooktyar Kar, or minister, requesting me to let him know the number of boats, camels, horses, and carts I should require for His Highness' servants, one of whom had brought out an English wife. These being supplied, the people embarked in two large boats of the Indus, which dropped down the stream

to Nauchee, about four miles below, on the opposite bank, whence they were conveyed to Khyrpoor, about eighteen miles distant in a south-westerly direction.

Sukkur, or, as the natives call it, New Sukkur, to distinguish it from the old town, about a mile higher up, is a flourishing place on the right bank of the Indus, with about 14,000 inhabitants, and its importance is fast increasing with the increased traffic on the river, to which the Bazaar runs parallel. On the high ground commanding the passage of the Indus are the cantonments, where at one time a very large British force was concentrated, though when I was at Sukkur a Belooch battalion and a detachment of the Police Corps were the only troops. As a station, Sukkur is one of the most dreary looking places I ever saw; the bazaar certainly exhibits symptoms of vitality, but on the elevated ground above nothing can be seen but rocky mounds and ridges, on which are generally empty bungalows, constructed in most instances out of ancient tombs; and the said bungalows, being generally in a very ruinous condition, have a most cheerless aspect, whilst more distant on the heights are long ranges of

empty barracks, that increase the desolate aspect of the scene. In contrast however to this, the river scenery at Sukkur is superior to any that I saw elsewhere in Sindh. High on the opposite bank, and overhanging the Indus, stands the picturesque old town of Roree, which was formerly a place of commercial importance. Nearly opposite Roree, in the centre of the river, on a high rocky island, which seems as if it had been cut off from the eastern bank by the action of the stream, is the old fort of Bukkur, a fortress that was much prized by the Ameers, who considered it the key to Sindh, and perfectly impregnable, which it possibly might have been to Sindhian assailants, though its crumbling walls, which are commanded from both banks, could not offer any resistance to European artillery. Between Bukkur and Roree the mighty stream of the Indus, being pent into a narrow channel between two almost perpendicular walls of rock, rushes with such intense velocity, that when the river is at its height the channel is impracticable for steamers, one of which was nearly lost in attempting it, and the depth is so great that the vessel had not chain cable enough to reach the bottom. The

native boatmen say that there is "a depth of forty men" in the channel. Extending southward from Roree, the bank is clothed with fine gardens of pomegranate, orange, and other fruit trees, to the town of Bubburloo, which belongs to His Highness Meer Ali Moorad, whose territory commences there. The branch of the river, westward of Bukkur, is too shallow for steamers to pass through, and when I came down in September, 1858, the river being then nearly at the highest, the steamer from Mooltan disembarked its passengers about a mile above, who, with their baggage, embarked in the large steamer awaiting their arrival at New Sukkur, below the dangerous rapid of Roree.

Along the right bank of the river stand the houses of civil and military officers, and near the official residence of the Superintendent of boats and Freight Agent, is the Ghat where the steamers of the Indus flotilla anchor during their stay at Sukkur. Great improvements have been made at this place in the last two years, especially in the construction of fine Ghats, or landing-places, of cut stone, along the bank of the river, and the formation of excellent roads throughout the station. The efficiency of the

conservative arrangements at Sukkur is highly creditable to the local authorities. The streets are kept admirably clean. Roads are laid out and excavations filled up, tending greatly to public health in crowded localities. The Sindh police is, without exception, the best in India; and here it may not be out of place to give a brief description of that body, which has served as a model for the recently established military police in central India.

The Sindh police is composed of horse, foot, and camel Sowars, all on a military organization. The horse and camel Sowars are stationed at Thannahs, or posts, throughout the entire province, and are constantly engaged in patrolling the country; the duty of the camel Sowars being principally confined to those districts bordering on the Desert, where, from the nature of the soil, the camel is found greatly superior to the horse. The infantry are composed of the rural and city police. The mounted police number 1074 Sowars. This body is organised and uniformly equipped as a regiment of irregular cavalry, the Sowars being armed with light single-barrelled percussion carbines and sabres. One hundred

of the Jackranee and Chandia tribes serve in the police force on the north-western frontier. These men are allowed to wear the costume of their respective tribes, and carry sword, shield, and matchlock, to encourage the border tribes to take service in the force. The Jackranees and Chandias are, of a truth, the wildest and dirtiest looking warriors that I ever came across; but their fidelity to their salt has been most exemplary. Every Sowar carries a pair of handcuffs for the purpose of securing his prisoner. The camel Sowars number 95. The rural police are 2422 in number, and constitute a body of infantry, drilled, clothed, and equipped like a regiment of the line. They furnish the civil guards at headquarter stations, jails and treasuries, and treasure escorts, when required. The city police number 486 men, armed with swords and staves, besides matchlocks when requisite. To this body are attached those most useful men the Puggees, or trackers, whose extraordinary exploits in the pursuit of robbers I shall notice hereafter.

The entire police of Sindh is under the command of a captain of police, who communicates direct with the Commissioner, and has under

him in each Zillah a lieutenant of police, in immediate command of the police of that district. The functions of the magisterial and police departments are entirely distinct, the latter being wholly executive. The captain of police has power to inflict two years' imprisonment; his lieutenants one year's imprisonment, with fine or flogging; but these powers are only exercised on the men under their respective control. The Sindh police, which was originally organized by Sir Charles Napier, has been found to work so admirably that little alteration or modification has been made in the original constitution of that body, and the continued internal peace of the country is mainly attributable to its active exertions. The total number of police stations in the three Zillahs is 208. Besides the regular police, the Jackranee and Chandia horse consist of four Jemadars at 25 rupees each, and 100 Sowars at 15 rupees each, under the orders of the Political Superintendent of the north-west frontier, and by these men the entire police duties of the frontier districts are performed. This body was formed principally for the purpose of turning freebooters into honest men, by giving them employment under Government;

and the Jackranee horse have fully answered the expectations formed on their being taken into the service. In the Thur and Parkur districts there is also a body of Kosah horse and foot, but they are considered as political pensioners. The mounted police, if required, would form a body of useful irregular cavalry, being efficiently mounted and well armed. The Sowars are continually to be seen moving about the country, and are the especial terror of all evil doers. In 1847 a small detachment of the mounted police, under Captain Younghusband, fell in with a large body of Bhoogtees near Kusmore, and at once going at them, sword in hand, cut down twenty-eight, and captured twenty-seven of their number. The marches made by the mounted police were on some occasions most extraordinary. A detachment of these admirable troops, with some Irregular Cavalry, and Durriah Khan with some Jackranee horse, marched two hundred miles in three days in pursuit of the Kulpoor Bhoogtees, yet the robbers escaped.

The fidelity of the rural police was effectually tested at Kurrachee in 1857, when it became necessary to disarm the 21st Native

Infantry, some of whose men had endeavoured to tamper with the men of the police.

Sir Bartle Frere's minute on the subject of the Sindh police so fully bears out the opinions of Sir Charles Napier, that I am induced to give the following lengthy extract therefrom:—

"Sir Charles' leading idea appears to have been, effectually to separate the police from the magisterial functions, confining the police to the duty of preventing or detecting crime, while the magisterial authorities, European and Native, were confined to the duty of investigating judicially the cases brought before them by the police.

"The example which Sir Charles appears to have generally kept in view was the Irish constabulary. But he had, long before coming to Sindh, tried his plan among the inhabitants in one of the Ionian Islands, where the population was more Oriental than European in character and habits. It was perhaps owing to the careful consideration he had thus given to the subject in earlier years, that he was able, immediately after the conquest, at once to devise and carry out an elaborate plan, involving a system previously untried in India, and which was so per-

fectly successful as to have required little alteration even in the details.

"In the Ionian Islands also, I believe, he first enforced his disarming Act, by forbidding persons to carry arms without a licence. The wisdom of this measure, and the absolute necessity to any efficient system of protective police, is now very generally acknowledged, though two years ago its practicability, or at all events its expediency, would have been very generally contested in every Province in India. It appears to me quite essential to such a system as the Sindh police, and was one of the first measures Sir Charles adopted after the conquest. It is to be observed that he never ordered or permitted any search after arms.

"The separation of the police from the magisterial authority, and their independence of each other, are the features of the Sindh system which at present strike most Indian officers as open to objection. Few deny that, if the officer who is to prevent crime, and to pursue and detect the criminal, be separate from him who is to sit in judgment, and if necessary to convict and punish, it is probable that more crimes will be prevented and detected, and that justice will be

more impartially administered. But it is argued that in practice it is next to impossible to prevent the two authorities clashing, and that they can only work together if the one Department can control the other.

"But experience in Sindh does not show that there is any ground for this apprehension; this may partly be owing to the fact that in Sindh there has always been at hand, in the governor or the commissioner, an authority to whom both the police and the magistrates are subordinate, and to whom either can refer when they chance to differ.

"It may not be amiss to note the general character of the faults which, in this Province, the one department is apt to find with the other.

"The magistrates and their assistants, European and Native, are apt to charge the police with exceeding their authority in arresting persons on insufficient ground, keeping them in custody on frivolous pretexts, without at once bringing them before a magisterial officer for examination, with neglecting to procure all the evidence which may be forthcoming, and with

relying too much on the accused's admission of the charge, and the like.

"The police are apt, on the other hand, to charge the magisterial authorities with inflicting inadequate punishment on great or habitual offenders, with requiring redundant proof, beyond what is necessary to moral conviction, with undue severity in punishing the police if they exceed their legal authority, and the like.

"It will be seen that a zealous officer in either department would always be liable to give some ground to such charges, according as his natural tendency might be to detect and prosecute crime, or to sit in impartial judgment on the accused; and the fact that such charges are continually brought forward on both sides, and are proved not to be altogether groundless, while they rarely, if ever, are found to be serious in character, is, I think, a strong proof that the separation of the two departments works well for both the prevention and detection of crime, and for the administration of justice; and that, if both functions were intrusted to one official, there would be a greater chance of serious error, according as his character and sympathies in-

clined him to be either more of a policeman or more of a judge.

"It will be observed that the appeal from either department in Sindh lies to an officer, the commissioner, who is equally interested in the prevention or detection of crime, and in the administration of justice, while he is not personally concerned in either way with the case which may be laid before him in appeal.

"I have found it of great advantage that an officer should serve as deputy magistrate before he becomes lieutenant of police: such officers are always less liable than others to clash with the magistrate and his subordinates.

"Practically, if the magistrate is a reasonable and zealous officer, the lieutenant of police becomes to him much the same as an extra assistant for police purposes; and all goes on smoothly. It is chiefly when the magistrate is unreasonable or indolent that the lieutenant of police is obliged to look to the captain of police for that support and direction which his own position as a junior and subordinate officer may render necessary, and which the captain of police, being, like the magistrate, in direct com-

munication with the commissioner, is generally able to afford him.

"The chance of the police and magisterial authorities coming into unseemly or unnecessary collision is, in practice, much diminished by the circumstance that the police are in no way exempt from the ordinary jurisdiction of the magistrates' and other courts of justice; though no sentence against a policeman can be carried out till intimation of it has been given to the lieutenant of police, and opportunity allowed for a reference to the captain of police, and, if he thinks it necessary, to the commissioner.

"This is found to be on the one hand an effectual check upon the police, while, on the other, it, to a considerable extent, protects policemen against cabals or too severe punishment for mistakes committed in the zealous performance of their duty.

"One excellent feature in the Sindh police is the separation into different branches, protective and detective, which affords an opening for the employment of every description of character likely to be useful to the police: some of the

most valuable detectives, for instance, are men who, from deficiency of education, or limited capacity in other respects, are quite unfit for the higher posts in the general police establishment, and who would, under the ordinary Indian system, be ineligible for any post higher than that of an ordinary police peon. Here such a man may be remunerated at a rate corresponding to his utility as a detective policeman, and be placed above the temptations which, in India, would generally beset a man whose sagacity furnished the evidence on which conviction or acquittal, in trials of great importance, might depend.

"One of the principles of Sir C. Napier's system, which has been too much neglected in all bodies of Indian police, is that the policeman should always be better paid than he would be in his native place, so that the post of policeman should be an object of ambition to the class from which he was drawn, and always superior to that of a day labourer. The gradual rise in wages and prices in Sindh is now fast neutralising Sir Charles' intentions in this respect, but the principle is one the soundness of which is beyond doubt, and should always be kept in view.

"It was never intended by Sir C. Napier that the Sindh Government police should supersede the indigenous village police of the country. The latter consists of watchmen and trackers, kept up in each community according to its requirements, and paid by the villagers at harvest-time, like the artificers and other village servants. In Sindh, where the population is so scattered, and cattle are so easily lost by straying or theft, the tracker is a necessary appendage to each agricultural community, and I have known some of the more experienced ones make a very good livelihood, equal to ten or twelve rupees per mensem. It is esteemed an honourable profession, and, in disputes, the word of an experienced tracker is often regarded as decisive; I have even known robbers appeal to it, and admit their guilt at once, and show where the stolen property was concealed, if the trackers' fiat were against them.

"With the appointments and emoluments of this class of men, Government in no way interferes. They are employed, paid, or discarded, entirely as the villagers may find convenient. But every Thannahdar makes it a point to ascertain who are the good village

trackers in his district, and where they are to be found; and it is from among this class that some of the best detective policemen are drawn.

"The only village officer at all recognised by Government is the headman or patel, who is responsible for giving information to the nearest policeman of any accidents or offences which may come to his knowledge, and who is bound to assist in person and with the aid of all members of the community, trackers included, in any subsequent steps which the police may find necessary.

"This system seems to me, upon the whole, the best I have seen in India, for combining the agency of the universal village police with that of a centralised force like that of the Government police. The village police in Sindh not being, in any way, interfered with, remains probably quite as efficient as it was under the native Government, while it is supported and supplemented by the Government police, when occasions arise with which the village police is incompetent adequately to deal."

CHAPTER V.

Residence in Travellers' Bungalow—Meeting between Lord William Bentinck and Maharajah Runjit Singh—Indian Field of the Cloth of Gold—The Maharajah's Troops—The Governor-General's Durbar—Ameer Khan—Shahzada Sooltaun Jan—Sacred Places—Khoajah Khizr—A Popular Legend—Island of Satee, or the Seven Sisters—Sadhoo Beyla—Tombs—Minaret of Mahomud Mūsum—Educational Establishments—Books in the Sindhian Character—Public Garden—Judicial Administration of Sindh—Civil and Criminal Courts—Fœticide—Fleet of Boats.

HAVING received instructions from Meer Ali Moorad to remain at Sukkur until His Highness should arrive in the vicinity of Khyrpoor, we made ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would permit in the Travellers' Bungalow, but as by regulation no person can continue to occupy rooms in these bungalows more than three days, we could never depend on retaining ours after that term had expired. Fortunately for us, few persons were travelling at that time, so we were for three weeks or so undisturbed. In the interim the *Jhelum* and *Frere* arrived. The *Jhelum* is a very slow vessel, and the *Frere*,

having a flat in tow, reached Sukkur several days after the *Nimrod*, and both vessels were so completely crammed with troops that the men had barely room to lie down, though the native servants generally slept on shore after taking their evening meal. A fleet of boats with 300 Sepoy prisoners, under sentence of transportation, also arrived from Mooltan some days subsequently, under charge of a strong guard of General Van Cortland's Military Police Corps. Some two or three of the prisoners had been shot in attempting escape near Subjulcote. The men of the guard were fine, stout fellows, and appeared to be very attentive to their duty.

The loneliness of our residence in the Travellers' Bungalow was occasionally mitigated by the presence of some agreeable companions, one of whom amongst other anecdotes related the following regarding Ameer Khan, a Pathan chief of Hindustan, which for chivalry of sentiment matches Scott's anecdote of the Highland Chieftain's candelabra in the Legend of Montrose:—

"The meeting between Lord William Bentinck, when Governor-General of India, and the Maharajah Runjit Singh, at Roopur on the

Sutlej, furnished," said our friend, "one of the most gorgeous spectacles ever witnessed, even in the East. At the time it was called '*the Indian field of the cloth of gold,*' and well might it be so styled, for with that rich material, and even shawls, were some of the Maharajah's tents lined. The Governor-General's camp was pitched on the left, that of Runjit Singh on the right bank of the Sutlej, there a noble stream, over which a bridge of boats had been thrown to facilitate communication between the camps: Lord William Bentinck, though simple in his own habits, was attended by all the magnates of the land, and surrounded by a staff who vied with each other in the splendour of their display. In fact, the Governor-General's camp contained upwards of a hundred elephants, and camels were in countless numbers. His Lordship's escort was small, but of picked men, and finer specimens of British soldiery were never seen. The escort consisted of a brigade of Horse Artillery, whose guns and equipment were models of their kind, as intended for presentation to the Maharajah. Two squadrons of H. M.'s 16th Lancers, with the 31st Foot, completed the escort. The advance in line of the

31st elicited the most enthusiastic praise from old Runjit, who was himself every inch a warrior; 'that regiment moves,' said he, 'a living wall,' and truly it did so, in advancing to the royal salute on the occasion of His Highness' visit to the Governor-General. On the following day his visit was returned with all possible 'pomp and circumstance,' but the grandeur of display in the British camp was as nothing compared with the vivid magnificence of that of the Maharajah. On our side of the river not a blade of grass was to be seen, but on crossing the Sutlej we found ourselves as though in fairy land, one sheet of verdure extending for miles, the ground having been ploughed, levelled, and sown with wheat, which had been carefully watered to expedite its growth, and there the Maharajah's tents were pitched as though upon a lawn. The tents themselves were of the most costly materials, and some of them of vast size; but two in particular struck my fancy as perfect gems of their kind, one being lined with the finest Cashmere shawls, the other with Kin kab, or cloth of gold, and the tent-poles were encased with gold or silver.

"A large body of the Maharajah's best troops

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were paraded on the occasion, and made a goodly display, for they were well clothed, well armed, and, by the steadiness of their movements, did great credit to the European officers in the Maharajah's service. His band, on which he much prided himself, was, however, a failure, and when about to strike up, General Allard was so apprehensive of an outburst of risibility, that he rode up to the English officers who were near the Maharajah, and said, "Ayez la complaisance de ne pas rire, Messieurs, s'il vous plait," and perhaps the warning was not altogether unnecessary. The Lancers formed a showy body, being dressed in yellow satin, which had a most gaudy effect, but the Ghorachuras, or Irregular Cavalry, were the most striking-looking troops in Runjit's force. When the guns were presented to him, he appeared as much delighted as a child with a new plaything, and immediately requested to have them tried. They were accordingly loaded, and a horseman taking up a chuttry* galloped some hundred yards to the front and placed it for a mark to fire at. The young artillery officer in charge of the guns laid one and fired it, sending the

* An umbrella.

chuttry flying. 'Wah, wah,' said Runjit Singh, 'now one of my Golundauze shall try his skill,' and accordingly he fired three or four shots, but not one of them hit the mark.

"Next day the Governor-General held a grand Durbar, which was attended by all the princes of Upper India, forming a vast assemblage magnificently attired, who, as usual on such occasions, presented their *nuzzurs* [offerings] to his Lordship. Amongst those present was Ameer Khan, who from a very humble beginning had raised himself to sovereign power, as I shall presently relate. This chief, to the astonishment of every one, came to the presence empty-handed. Thinking that the old warrior, who was more at home in camps than courts, had forgotten to bring a *nuzzur*, a British official reminded him, saying, 'Khan Sahib, nuzzur-i-shuma cuja ust:' Khan Sahib, where is your nuzzur? The old man smiled, and beckoning beyond the circle, up strode his six stalwart sons—each above six feet in height, and fully equipped in magnificent suits of chain armour. 'Here,' said the venerable chief, the glow of paternal pride beaming on his countenance, 'is my *nuzzur*,' as the sons made their salutations to the Governor-

General, who was delighted with the chivalric feeling that had prompted the above strikingly interesting scene. But now I must give you a slight sketch of the history of Ameer Khan, for it furnishes an extraordinary instance of a chief, with neither territory nor population under his acknowledged dominion, being able to bring a large force into the field; but such is the fact, and as long as a native Indian army is able to carry on offensive operations under a leader of mark, recruits will flock to his standard from all quarters. In fact, the character of the war in which a native power is engaged, is perhaps of as much importance as its revenue, population, or territorial extent. Ameer Khan was at first a mere military adventurer, but possessing a daring spirit, and being little scrupulous as to the means so that his end was attained, he eventually raised himself to sovereign power. In 1809-10 that power was at its zenith. He commanded above thirty thousand horse, though many of them were mere Pindaries. His connection with the other great Pathan leader, Mahomed Shah Khan, who maintained an army on the resources of the Joudhpoor state, further placed at his disposal

12,000 well-disciplined infantry, 6000 horse of a superior description, and 112 guns, but Ameer Khan's power subsequently declined, as Sir John Malcolm, who had the best means of information, reported to the Supreme Government in 1817, that this chief's military force did not exceed 12,000 horse, several indifferent battalions, and between two and three hundred pieces of artillery. At this time, however, the two Pathan chiefs were formidably pre-eminent amongst our enemies from having large bodies of trained infantry, and a numerous artillery, all actuated by the same predatory spirit as the Pindaries themselves. Their infantry were the old battalions of Holkar, which were reputedly the best in India, not under the command of European officers. The horse were moreover paid by the month, instead of living, as the Pindaries avowedly did, by plunder alone. Indeed, the main difference between the two classes was that the Pathans were banded together for the purpose of plundering governments and powerful chiefs, whilst the Pindaries were actuated by a desire for general rapine. They preyed upon the population at large, and only fought when fighting was unavoidable,

whereas the Pathan leaders moved about with both field and siege artillery, so as to work on the apprehensions of the princes of Central India, and extort from them contributions and other advantages, by the intimidation that such a force was calculated to impress. The connection of the Pathan chiefs with Holkar's durbar gave them the character of mercenaries; indeed, such they were, for in 1809, when the Joudhpoor territory was threatened by Sindhia, the Rajah engaged the services of Mahomed Shah Khan for the purpose of repelling the attack. The Pathan chiefs and their followers were, in fact, Condottieri, whose sharp swords were ever at the disposal of the best bidder, and thus gave them an opportunity of interfering in the passing intrigues of the Rajpoot and Mahratta princes, and by their active partisanship they always managed to derive personal advantages, and, with a large recompense in view, were not over particular as to the means of its attainment. Ameer Khan twice sold his services for the assassination of obnoxious persons, and, on both occasions, violated the most solemn guarantees. But such acts were little heeded at a time and in a country where mur-

der and rapine was an every-day occurrence. This chief was undoubtedly a man of great tact, and as such became the acknowledged head of the Pathan forces and interests; and the other Pathan leader dying, all the Sirdars consented to act in subordination to Ameer Khan, under whose personal command the whole of their troops were placed, and he played his cards with such consummate skill, that at the termination of the war in 1818, he was allowed to retain possession of Seronj in Malwa and Tonk on the Banas, which are his two principal possessions, but there was scarcely a district of Rajapootana in which he had not some fort or assignment of territory. The British Government moreover engaged by treaty to secure to him all lands which he held by grant from Holkar. It was further determined that Rampoora, which had been ceded by Holkar to the British Government, should be conferred on Ameer Khan, I suppose in consideration of the signal services that he rendered to us, by inducing the leaders of his powerful force to surrender their guns and disband their numerous followers, which was not accomplished without great difficulty; so, whatever his

antecedents, Ameer Khan well merited a signal reward."

The climate of Sindh is said to be uncongenial to the constitution of elephants, and those animals are rarely seen there. I was therefore one day surprised to learn that a native prince, mounted on an elephant, had called in my absence, leaving a card inscribed "Shahzada Sooltaun Jan." After a short time my visitor returned, and a very gentlemanly man I found him. The Shahzada introduced himself as a nephew of the late Shah Soojah ool Moolk, King of Cabool, and stated that he had been an officer in our Irregular Cavalry, but had quitted the service on account of a rupture, which disqualified him for mounted duty, and was in the enjoyment of a pension from Government. I rather liked what I saw of the Shahzada, whose breeding was evidently equal to his birth, and I subsequently saw more of him at Khyrpoor, where he was welcomed by Meer Ali Moorad, less I believe through sympathy for his fallen fortunes than the desire to retain a scion of royalty at his court, as enhancing His Highness' own dignity.

The weather continued delightfully cool

throughout the month of January, nearly as cold after sunset as it is in the south of Europe at the same season; but our time would have passed heavily had it not been for the constant occupations that inquiries into all relating to Sindh, its people, customs, &c., afforded. I also visited everything worth seeing in the place and its neighbourhood.

During my stay at Sukkur, a Seyud, who resided at Old Sukkur, made our acquaintance, and a very intelligent man he appeared, though some of his tales rather bordered on the marvellous, and he never tired of talking of the by-gone glories of his native place. Sukkur, Bukkur, and Roree, are all considered sacred places by the Mahomedans, who had formerly colleges and establishments of Seyuds and holy men there, whose tombs, some of which are very handsome, contribute to the picturesque appearance of the hills on either side of the river. The islands in the Indus are some of them held peculiarly sacred too; one of these, called *Khoajah Khizr*, contains a mosque of very ancient appearance, dedicated to Khizr or Elias, "the Saint of Waters;" which from an inscription that formerly existed, though I was

unable to find it, leads to the supposition that the mosque was erected in the year 341 A. H., or 927 years ago. This island is held sacred equally by Hindoos and Mahomedans; the former call it "*Lauli-oodey-Roo-Jindo-Peer*," or "the living saint." The island of Khoajah Khizr is said to be so sacred to everything Sindhian that the fish of the river, particularly the Pullah, evince their respect for the island by never turning their tails when retiring from its shores. The author of "Dry Leaves from Young Egypt" gives the following account of the legends regarding this island :—

"The popular legend tells us, that a shepherd named Bāji, whose hut stood where the '*Mahall of Bājï*,' one of the divisions of the town of Rohrī, now stands, observed at night a bright flame burning at some distance from him: thinking it had been kindled by travellers, he sent his wife to procure a light from it, but as often as she approached, it vanished. She returned and told her husband; and he, disbelieving her report, went himself, and then discovered that it was indeed a miraculous manifestation. Awe-struck with what he had seen, he erected a Takiyah, or hermit's hut, on the spot, and

devoted himself as a Fakir to the religious care of the place. Soon after this the Indus altered its course, and, abandoning the walls of Allore, encircled the ground on which the Takiyah of Baji stood, and which is now called the Island of Khoajah Khizr."

The same writer refers to another story in the Chachnāmah, which relates "that the Rajah of Allore was desirous of possessing the beautiful daughter of a merchant who resided in his city. The unhappy father, unable to oppose the wishes of the King, entreated that a respite of eight days might be allowed to him; and having spent that time in fasting and prayer, he was miraculously conveyed with his daughter and all his wealth to the island of Khizr, the river at the same time deserting the city of Allore, which was thus doomed to desolation for the tyranny of its King."

Nearly opposite the fort of Bukkur, towards the eastern bank, is the Island of Satee, or the "Seven Sisters," whereon is a tomb, regarding which there is a popular legend to the following effect:—

"In former days a certain King of Delhi sent a confidential officer to Persia to escort several

beautiful damsels from that country, who were intended for the Royal Zenana, and whilst returning to India with the seven virgins, to whose memory this island is dedicated, an enemy at the court of Delhi falsely accused him to his sovereign of having betrayed his trust. The King, being violently enraged against his officer, sought not to ascertain the truth of the accusation, but at once directed the vile informer to take a body of horse and intercept the officer and his lovely charges, who were accompanied but by a scanty retinue, and, wherever he might fall in with them, to put the whole to death. Unhappily he came upon the party at Roree, and though the faithful officer and his attendants retired to this island, and made a vigorous defence, in which they were courageously assisted by the seven sisters, the whole were mercilessly slain. But the falsehood of the informer being afterwards discovered, the King bitterly regretted his reckless haste, and after causing the treacherous accuser to be put to death, had a tomb erected to the memory of his victims on the spot where they perished." This is one of the traditions current in reference to the Island of *Sātee*.

A little lower down is another island, called "*Sādhoo Beyla*," or "the Pure Spot," on which the fuel for the steamers is stored. Here dwells a Hindoo religieux of reputed great sanctity, to whom the Hindoos resort in numbers, and in whose prayers they place much faith.

Immediately on the rocky hill which overhangs the collector's house, in former days the residence of the Government Agent, are the ruins of what is said to have been the tomb of a foreign princess, and more distant are several others. Most of these tombs are faced with encaustic bricks or tiles, the colours of which are still bright, though they must have stood the weather of nearly three centuries, for most of these tombs date from the age of Acbar, though some are of far greater antiquity; indeed, the author of the work above referred to, supposes that some of the tombs were erected upwards of eight centuries ago. The encaustic bricks, wherewith these tombs are faced, are set in a vast variety of patterns, and the colours are far superior to those now made even at Hala, which are said to be the best in Sindh.

A small domed building in the grounds of the old Government Agency contains an inscription,

of which a translation is given in the same work as follows:—

"In the time of the Khilāfut of the great Shāh, most revered King of Kings, brightness of the faith, Muhammad Akbar, the King, exterminator of infidels, may God establish his kingdom.

"This building was erected for good purposes, by the noble Muhammad Masum of Bakkar, the son of Saiyid Safā, for the common benefit of all Mūsalmān. Whoever makes a tomb in this edifice, the curse of God, and of the prophet, and of angels, and of the faithful, on him rest! 1008, A. M." As we are now in the year 1275-76 of the Mahomedan era Hijree, the age of this building is plain.

The tower or minaret of Mahomud Māsum stands on the height immediately overhanging the bazaar, and as a landmark is visible at a great distance. The remains of that pious and munificent Seyud are said to be interred at the foot of the tower.

Amongst the modern works at Sukkur I must not omit mention of a large and neatly-built school-house, which was opened whilst I was there; and here I shall offer a few remarks on the

subject of education in Sindh, which now appears to be steadily advancing under the zealous superintendence of Major Goldsmid, one of the ablest linguists in the service, who is entirely devoted to the cause of education. Until the year 1852 little had been attempted towards the introduction of vernacular and English schools in Sindh, but during the last seven years the establishment of both has been satisfactory. At Kurrachee two English schools have been established under Government auspices. At Kotree and Hyderabad similar schools have been formed. At Shikarpoor Major Goldsmid succeeded in assembling a large number of scholars for instruction in English. At Roree a spacious College, sufficient for the accommodation of 200 pupils, has been completed, and it is intended to form an English class. In the Shikarpoor collectorate vernacular schools have been established in all the large towns, which are steadily attended by nearly 300 scholars. The frontier district has also had one school for some time in operation, and three more are in progress. The language of Sindh has now been reduced to a definite shape; a Sindhee character has been established, such being an adaptation of

the Arabic alphabet to the sounds and peculiarities of the Sindhee dialect. The indigenous schools of the province afford instruction in Arabic, Sindhee, and Persian, to a large number of the children of *both* sexes. In the city of Hyderabad there are twelve private schools, and one supported by the municipality, with an attendance of nearly 900 scholars, of whom 34 are girls: 20 schools, having 550 scholars in this collectorate, are either private or supported conjointly by Government and the municipalities.

Numerous elementary works on geography, mensuration, arithmetic, or on general literature, have been translated into, and published in, the new Sindhee character. An engineer class has been established at Kurrachee. A system of industrial education has been established in the principal jails throughout the province, where the prisoners are taught to manufacture carpets, coloured and plain cloths, and execute various kinds of carpenters' and turners' work. All this has been accomplished under the direct management of the local authorities, aided by Government to the extent of 10,000 rupees per annum, with additional grants for educational buildings. Educational inspectors

have been appointed, from which great results are expected.

The principle which the chief commissioner has hitherto found the most successful, has been to afford the people a maximum of opportunities for all descriptions of education, combined with a minimum of direct or authoritative interference. Those who have had the best opportunities of observing the working of the system declare their entire confidence in the plan.

Sukkur can boast of a public garden, such as it is, but it has latterly been much neglected. The Parsee and Bhora shops, from want of support, are but poorly furnished with European supplies, consequent on the limited demand for such articles. The houses of the European residents are indifferent, but the bazaar is well built, and has a bustling, business-like aspect.

During our somewhat tedious sojourn at Sukkur I made it my business to obtain some information regarding the judicial administration of Sindh. After the conquest of that country by the illustrious Napier, His Excellency established the following regulations for the guidance and information of the magistrates, and deputy and assistant magistrates, whom

he appointed for the disposal of minor cases with the following powers :—

To inflict 6 months' imprisonment.
100 rupees fine.
50 lashes.

His Excellency also drew up instructions for their guidance in passing sentence, and at the same time ordered that all cases involving a heavier punishment than six months' imprisonment should be tried by military commission; the minor offences were easily and speedily disposed of, but delay occurred in the settlement of heavier cases. In civil suits the sole order given regarding their disposal was that which ordered a fee of 5 per cent. to be levied at the filing of every suit. This of course was intended to operate as a check on litigation, and I dare say has had that effect. Until 1853 only European officers exercised magisterial powers, either of a criminal or civil nature. In 1849 orders were received to assimilate the practice in all courts, as far as circumstances would admit, to that laid down in the code of regulations of 1827, and the progress, though slow, has been satisfactory.

The civil courts established in Sindh are :—

1. The Commissioner's.
2. Magistrates' and Judicial Deputy Magistrates'.
3. Deputy Magistrates'.
4. Moonsiffs'.
5. Kardars'.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd are appellate courts; the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th are courts of original jurisdiction.

The kardars try suits not exceeding 50 rupees in amount. There is a moonsiff at each of the three zillah stations, who try suits not exceeding 1000 rupees in amount.

The deputy magistrates and magistrates try suits of any amount.

Appeals from the decisions of kardars are made to the deputy magistrate of the district, and thence to the commissioner.

Appeals from original decisions of deputy magistrates and judicial deputy magistrates, are made to the magistrate, and thence to the commissioner.

The judicial deputy magistrate is an officer appointed to assist the magistrate in his judicial duties; he has powers coëqual with the magistrate, but tries only such cases as are sent to

him by his superior. His duties are similar to those of a joint judge in the Bombay Presidency, but from his decision in original suits, an appeal lies first to the magistrate, then to the commissioner.

The Commissioner's court is the final court of appeal; he regulates all procedure, and answers to the Sudr-Dewanee-Udaulut. He inspects and supervises all the civil courts while on his tour through the country. He is assisted in his judicial duties by an officer styled the judicial assistant to the commissioner, who prepares all cases and lays them, with his opinion, before the commissioner for final decision.

Sindh is divided into five districts, viz. three Zillahs, the Frontier, under the Political Superintendent, and the Thurr and Parkur Districts. In each of the three zillahs there is a magistrate, judicial deputy magistrate, and three or four deputy magistrates, one moonsiff, and sixty kardars throughout the province.

In the frontier district there is, under the political superintendent, an assistant political superintendent, with power similar to that of a deputy magistrate, a mooktyarkar, and three kardars.

In the Thurr and Parkur districts there is a

deputy magistrate, who is also acting political agent in Cutch. He has full magisterial powers, and has under him three kardars, but the system here differs from that throughout the rest of the province.

Civil suits in value above 20 rupees are liable to a 5 per cent. fee on admission, and a similar charge for every appeal. All suits below that amount pay one rupee; the only other cost is for batta to the peon who serves summonses from any distance, and four annas for each copy of a decree.

There are no other charges for justice in civil suits in Sindh, unless the parties employ vakeels.

The Civil Court administration in the Thurr and Parkur districts is conducted in a manner very agreeable to the wishes and feelings of the simple-minded people of that country; for a time no fees were levied, as in the more civilized districts, but I believe that a small fee is now taken on the institution of a suit. Natives of India, and especially Hindoos, are exceedingly fond of litigation; it is therefore undoubtedly desirable to place obstacles, as far as possible, in its way, but at the same time the fewer

niceties of English law that we have in the administration of justice in India, the better for the people of the country. Already has a taste for the employment of English lawyers displayed itself in Sindh, and an attorney of the supreme court of Bombay, whom I met at Sukkur, was receiving a hundred rupees a day for coming up there on the business of his clients, and he extended his travels up to Jacobabad. Truly he must have made a pretty profitable job out of a pleasant journey. Thus much for civil justice in Sindh; I now come to the criminal courts of that province.

CRIMINAL COURTS OF SINDH.

The officers appointed for the administration of criminal justice are:—

The Chief Commissioner.

The Magistrates and Judicial Deputy Magistrates.

The Deputy Magistrates.

The Kardars.

The kardars are empowered to dispose of petty cases and award punishment as follows:—

1st. Fine to the extent of 15 rupees.

2nd. Confinement for 20 days.

3rd. Stocks for 12 hours.

Besides which, when reported qualified, their powers are increased to the extent below noted:

1st. Imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding four months.

2nd. Fine not exceeding 100 rupees.

3rd. Flogging not exceeding 25 stripes.

Theft, cattle-stealing, and a long list of other crimes and nuisances declared penal, come within the scope of their jurisdiction; but their decisions require the confirmation of the deputy magistrate before they are carried into effect, and the prisoner and proceedings must be forwarded to that authority within 24 hours after trial.

Deputy magistrates have power to award one year's imprisonment, and fine, or flogging, not exceeding 50 lashes, without confirmation, and seven years' imprisonment, fine or flogging, subject to the chief commissioner's confirmation.

Magistrates are vested with powers corresponding to session judges, and have also magisterial powers as enjoyed by zillah magistrates in Bombay; such as seven years' imprisonment without confirmation; fine, flogging, not ex-

ceeding 50 stripes; solitary confinement not exceeding six months; and with confirmation any sentence allowed by law.

The Chief Commissioner's Court answers to that of the Sudr-Foujdaree-Udaulut at Bombay. He settles all points of procedure, and confirms all sentences requiring his sanction, excepting those of death or transportation for life, which alone require the confirmation of the governor in council. Whether in peace or war, it is notorious that Sir Charles Napier never carried a serious sentence into execution, without having previously made himself perfectly master of the case. The punishment of death he inflicted only for murder, but murder, and especially wife murder, was then an every-day affair. As the certainty of punishment became known to the people, the crime gradually decreased, and now it is of comparatively rare occurrence, and even when committed the murderer endeavours to conceal his crime in most instances, striving to make it appear that the unfortunate woman committed suicide. Amongst the crimes of Sindh, fœticide is declared to be carried on to a dreadful extent, and to be thought lightly of by the people. This is performed by the *dayes*

or midwives, who are so expert in their criminal art, as to destroy the fœtus in any stage of pregnancy, without much danger to the mother. Offences against morality are punished by the magistrate whenever brought to notice. Wearing arms is prohibited to all except Government officials and police, unless by permission of the magistrate, or captain, or lieutenant of police. And here I drop the subject of civil and criminal justice in Sindh, which my lady readers will be sure to skip as far too dry for their perusal.

At length we were disturbed in our possession of the Traveller's Bungalow, by an invitation to vacate it on the following morning in favour of some married officers of the 16th Native Infantry, which corps was expected from Shikarpoor on the following day; so we paid Limjee, the Parsee merchant, a visit, knowing that he had several vacant houses, each, perhaps, a trifle more ruinous and dirty than the others, at least, so it seemed after looking at half a dozen; but we at last fixed on a small octagon bungalow, on an elevated height not very far from Mahomud Masum's Pillar, and therein we established ourselves, as well as circumstances would permit, managing to keep

out the wind with mats, and maintaining an enormous fire, for the weather was bitterly cold, and the situation of our house about the most exposed in Sukkur. However, both my chum and myself were prepared for discomfort; and plenty of discomfort we had during the following nine months, as on His Highness' repeated promises that we should want for nothing we had come very lightly provided with the ordinary necessaries for European gentlemen in India. On the day after our exodus to the octagon bungalow, the 16th Native Infantry arrived, and a very nice, smart-looking corps they appeared, though somewhat dusty after a march of a dozen miles along a road ancle-deep in the finest sand. The regiment marched straight down to the beach, or rather to the ghats, where a fleet of boats lay in readiness for their reception. These boats were mostly of large size, very comfortably fitted up with grass mats all round. On the following morning they would have been on their way down the river, but during the night a tremendous dust storm came on, and the commanding officer ordered the corps to stand fast, as in such weather it was dangerous to attempt the passage.

The Kurrachee papers some days afterwards noticed the dreadful death of a lady and her child on board one of these boats, which, when fastened to the shore for the night, by some negligence of the servants, caught fire, and both were burned to death before assistance could be rendered by the lady's husband, who had jumped overboard with the two elder children, which were both saved. I am only surprised that accidents by fire do not more frequently occur on board these boats, from the inflammable nature of the materials wherewith they are covered, such being reed mats and straw, or rather grass thatch, which is generally as dry as tinder. These boats, when so fitted up are very comfortable, unless too much crowded; but most travellers have the greater part of their servants and baggage in a second boat, to allow more space for themselves.

CHAPTER VI.

Shikarpoor—Its great Commercial Importance—The Sudr Bazaar—A Motley Multitude—Hindoo Merchants—Native Bills of Exchange—Decline of Shikarpoor—Jacobabad—The Jakranee and Doomkee Colonies—Importance of Jacobabad—Hill Campaign under Sir Charles Napier—The Hill Tribes—Sindh Horse—War Services of this Corps—Mirza Ali Acbar Khan Bahader—Departure from the North-western Frontier—Roree—House of a Native Gentleman—The Jooma Musgid—Allore or Brahmanabad—Ancient Course of the Indus—Seyuds of Roree—Sacred Hair of the Prophet.

A CANTER of two-and-twenty miles in a north-westerly direction from Sukkur brings one to Shikarpoor, the Zillah station of the collectorate, and the military head-quarters in Upper Sindh. The garrison is, however, much reduced in strength, now only consisting of a regiment of native infantry, one company of artillery, and two companies of European foot, with some of the police corps. The station is tolerably well laid out, and the houses are better, and their general appearance is superior to that of Sukkur; the climate is much the same, but

Shikarpoor is generally preferred, on account of the former being extremely dull. Shikarpoor is situated on the high road to Candahar by the Bolan Pass, and this must always give it an important influence on the trade of the Indus and the countries beyond. No city beyond the Indus at all comes up to it in commercial importance, from the extensive nature of its banking transactions with China, India, Persia, Khorassan, Bokhara, Turkey, and Astracan, its principal merchants having correspondents and money transactions in all those countries. Shikarpoor shares with Mooltan the title of one of the gates of Khorassan, the natives of Sindh so styling Afghanistan.

The city, which is about three miles in circumference, is surrounded by a very dilapidated wall, having eight huge gates, beyond which are luxuriant gardens. It was built about the year 1617, and contains 22,000 inhabitants, according to the census of Captain Postans, but since increased fully one-third. The bazaar is an extremely fine one, about 600 yards in length, and entirely covered in, which, however agreeable, as affording shelter from a burning sun, renders the place unbearable when

crowded with people. Shikarpoor is truly the capital of merchants, bankers, and money-changers. Its position is eminently favourable to commerce, and it may be considered the entrepôt of the Khorassan and Indian trade. Its shops are filled with the finest shawls of Cashmere, cloth of gold from Mooltan, Hindustan, and the Deccan, furs from Astracan, swords from Persia and Damascus; cloths of all kinds and at all prices, ripe and dry fruits, with all kinds of groceries, and what the Americans call notions. The best time for viewing the Sudr Bazaar is about four o'clock in the afternoon, when all Sindh arouses itself after the midday siesta, and pours into the bazaar, either for purchases or pleasure, despite the stifling heat from want of fresh air, and the poisonous smells that exhale from a closely packed multitude of not over-clean persons. "Here," says Captain Postans, "is to be met the haughty Moslem, mounted on his fine Khorassan steed, decorated with rich trappings, himself wearing the tall Sindhian cap of rich brocade, and a scarf of gold and silk, jostling through the crowd, between whom a way is opened by the Sindhian soldiers who precede and follow him; then

follows the Afghan with a dark-blue scarf cast over his breast, his long black hair falling in masses on his shoulders, his olive cheek tinted by the mountain breeze, and his eye full of fire and resolution. We have also the Seyud of Peshin in his goat's-hair cloak, the fair Herati, the merchant of Candahar, in flowing garments and many-coloured turban; the tall Pathan with heavy sword and mien calculated to court offence, while among the rest is the filthy Sindhian, and the small, miserable-looking, cringing Hindoo, owning perhaps lakhs in the neighbouring streets, but fearing the exactions of the Ameers. These present a fair sample of the groups who crowd the principal street of Shikarpoor; but we miss the wild Belooch, with his plaited hair and ponderous turban, his sword, matchlock, and high-bred mare; but the freebooter of the desert likes not cities, and is rarely seen in them."

Here is a very accurate picture of the Shikarpoor bazaar, the merchants of which city are as noted for their active, business-like habits, as their ladies are for beauty and freedom of manners; indeed the Hindoos of the other great towns give them credit for something more; so much

scandalised too have some of those towns been at the evil report of Shikarpoor, that it has more than once been proposed to deprive the Hindoo inhabitants of their caste. The accusation, it is to be feared, is not altogether groundless; but if the wives are immoral, the husbands have mainly to thank themselves for it. The practice of the place is, after a young Hindoo marries, that he should leave his wife, and go to seek his fortune in distant countries, immediately after the birth of his first child. His means at first are probably very small, but great self-denial, industry, and usury pretty surely enable him to increase his store. Many of these men become ministers of small Mahomedan States, or are in confidential situations, whereby they are enabled to amass money, and they thus return home wealthy citizens. Such a desertion of young wives for a long period of years can, however, hardly contribute to morality, and the consequence is, that many of "the grass widows" form other connections in the absence of their liege lords, who, however, seem to take the thing very philosophically, albeit in some cases, says Captain Burton, their families have increased during their own absence, and when that occurs, they

content themselves with administering a drubbing to their frail partners, and quietly fathering the offspring that they find in the establishment. Small praise as the Hindoo merchants deserve for the morality of their ways, I must admit that they are trustworthy men of business, and I believe that few instances can be cited of one of their Hoondies (native bills of exchange) being dishonoured, however distant might be the locality on which it was drawn. The form of these Hoondies is somewhat different from that of an English Bill of Exchange: *Ecce Signum*, according to that first of practical Orientalists, Burton:—

1¼ True as the Deity Sri.

1. To the worthy of every respect, may you always be in good health, may you always be happy—Mr Brother Jesu Mal.
2. From Shikarpoor, written by Kisordas; read his compliments.
3. And further, Sir, this one Hoondee of 1,000 rupees I have written on you in numerals and in letters, rupees 1,000; and the half, which is 500, of which the double is one thousand complete. Dated the —— of —— in the year of Vikramaditya, to be paid at

Kabul, after the term of —— days, to the bearer, the money to be of the currency of the place.

In the year of Vikramaditya, &c.

On the documents are also certain private marks which effectually prevent forgery and swindling, as such are known only to the drawer and his correspondent. About two-thirds of the inhabitants of Shikarpoor are Hindoos, of very lax tenets, as above stated, and of the remainder one thousand are Afghans, or the descendants of Afghans, and such are perhaps the handsomest and most intelligent people in the East.

The cold season at Shikarpoor is extremely pleasant, and they have water within thirteen feet of the surface in all parts of the city, which possesses no public edifice worthy of notice, though the houses of the more opulent Hindoo merchants are large and commodious.

This city produces hair and cotton carpets, silk loongees, and very superior leather, which latter article has been exported in large quantities to the coast of Arabia and the Persian Gulf, since the days of Marco Polo. Shikarpoor certainly wears an appearance of wealth superior to that of any other city in Sindh; never-

theless, Mr Macleod, a very able Revenue officer, states in his report, that Shikarpoor has been on the decline ever since that of the Cabul monarchy. Further, that since the death of Jeyth Mull the Kardar of Shikarpoor, who was all-powerful, the mercantile connection of the place has not extended beyond Cabul and Kandahar to the westward, and Jeypore, Jessulmeer, and Bickaneer to the east. Its principal trade is now in the direction of Kurrachee and Palee, and through those places with Bombay. Mr Macleod's opinion is certainly at variance with popular report in respect to the decline of Shikarpoor; but as such opinion is based on official data, it would be folly to gainsay it. In that gentleman's opinion Kurrachee is now the most prosperous commercial town in Sindh, but even the transactions of her merchants, as compared with those of the Bombay capitalists, are, from want of means and want of enterprise, on a limited scale. Indeed, he declares his belief that there is not a wealthy man in trade in all Sindh.

Twenty-five miles beyond Shikarpoor, on the frontier of the Desert, towards the Bolan Pass, is Jacobabad, formerly known as Khanghur,

which a dozen years ago was a small village, with a single well and three insignificant shops, protected by a small square fort, with round towers at the angles, and lancet-shaped crenelles to shelter matchlock-armed defenders. Here the late Brigadier-General Jacob established himself with the head-quarters of the famous Sindh horse. On the same spot is now a flourishing town of 17,000 inhabitants, exclusive of the troops there stationed. Jacobabad is the head-quarters of the north-west frontier, and by the admirable management of the late Political Superintendent, the country, which a few years back was a desert waste, has been changed into a sheet of luxuriant cultivation, producing a return that is annually increasing, the revenue of the district now amounting to upwards of 70,000 rupees annually. This has been accomplished by opening a canal from the Indus, for some eighty miles into the heart of the desert. In the tract of land watered by this canal, the plundering tribes of the border have settled down, as was projected by the great chief who subdued them, and are now peaceful cultivators of lands which have been granted to them on liberal terms, with a secure title. So rapidly

have the revenues of the frontier district increased, that it may be confidently expected they will yield a land revenue of two lakhs of rupees, which might be increased to eight were the project of the Great Desert Canal to be carried into effect.

According to the latest published report from the Chief Commissioner in Sindh, the remnant of the Bhoogtee tribe have behaved well, and adhered honourably to their engagements, having repeatedly given up clansmen charged with cattle-stealing. The Jakranee and Doomkee Colonies about Jacobabad are also going on favourably, each year seeming to confirm them in their newly-acquired habits of industry; indeed they declare that they would not now wish to quit Sindh. These people, under direction of their own chiefs, have most efficiently constructed a large dam, for irrigatory purposes, across an old channel of the Indus, near Kusmore. The Commissioner further reports that perfect security for life and property now exists upon the border and for some distance beyond. These Belooch tribes, who formerly plundered all Cutchee and Sindh up to the gates of Shikarpoor and Larkhana, and who up to 1847 had

never handled anything but weapons of war, have now settled down to agricultural pursuits in the most satisfactory manner. Of these tribes there are about 2000 adult males at present living on the British Border, the scene of their former warlike deeds and predatory forays, which still form the theme of their songs. Yet they resist the many temptations offered to lead them to a renewal of their former practices, for in no single instance has such an event occurred. Some of the Bhoogtees indeed have been taken into our service amongst the Belooch Guides, and have given entire satisfaction.

The importance of Jacobabad, in a political, military, and commercial point of view, is very great, being situated on the road to the Bolan Pass, which is the highway to Central Asia. The most recently published returns show that under present circumstances even the trade from Khelat and Afghanistan into Sindh far exceeds that from the countries to the north or eastward, and, were all impediments removed in Afghanistan, it might be expected very rapidly to increase. Upon our inland frontier all duties have been discontinued, and on the north-western border arrangements have been

entered into with the Khan of Khelat whereby all transit duties through his dominions, which duties were formerly numerous, heavy, and vexatious, have been abolished, and in lieu thereof a fixed duty of 8 annas per maund of eighty pounds, without reference to value, is levied. The customs and transit duties yet levied at Candahar and throughout Afghanistan, are however still very burdensome and vexatious, and they press heavily and injuriously on the trade; but it is to be hoped that our friendly relations with the Ameer Dost Mahomed will produce a favourable change in this respect. The chief staple production of Khelat and Afghanistan is wool, and the aggregate of imposts paid to the chiefs of those countries under the arrangements which have hitherto obtained, has been from 12 to 20 per cent. The subjection of merchandise to transit duties so heavy as these, on its way to the port of shipment, has naturally proved very detrimental hitherto to the fair development of the north-western trade; thus there is every reason to hope that, under our improved relations with those states, the exports in wool will be increased tenfold.

The expense of preserving peace and tran-

quillity on this frontier was formerly enormous, as compared with what it now costs; in fact, the large military force the Government found it necessary for so many years to maintain in Sindh, not for the purpose of restraining the people, but to be ready to defend India from foreign enemies, has been the cause of the expenditure so greatly exceeding the revenues of the Province. Some declare that it will never be self-supporting; but, until the exports of the country shall have attained their maximum, it will be impossible to form anything like an accurate judgment on this point.

The frontier tribes are now quiet enough, but a few years ago they were constantly disturbing the peace of the border; and to such an extent had these predatory inroads arrived, that in January, 1845, Sir Charles Napier found it necessary to take the field, and, with an army of 6000 men, commenced the Truckee (or hill campaign) against the Murrees, Bhoogtees, &c., and so masterly were the arrangements of that great commander for hemming in those robber-tribes, that in little more than six weeks they were too glad to surrender at discretion. The hill tribes mustered 18,800 fighting men, and

the boast of their chiefs was that during 600 years no enemy had ever entered their mountains, every army that attempted it having failed; two British detachments perished almost to a man in those fastnesses in 1840. Thus Beja Khan, Doomkee, Islam Khan, Bhoogtee, Durrya Khan, Jakranee, and Hoossein Khan, Mundooanee, with their robber-tribes, who were assembled at Truckee, considered themselves secure in that almost inaccessible stronghold, surrounded by rocks, through clefts in which their assailants could alone find entrance; but they knew not the master-spirit with whom they had to contend, and whom they afterwards styled the *Shytaun Ka Bhaye.** Provisions and water were brought up for the troops with the greatest difficulty. No man could move beyond the line of sentries without the certainty of death, for, concealed in caves and chasms, the robbers stole out on the troops and killed all they could surprise; but so admirably were the great captain's measures taken, that, as I have before said, he in a few weeks compelled the enemy to surrender at discretion. Those conquered robbers are now peaceful husbandmen,

* Satan's Brother.

cultivating the very lands which they had before harried in their predatory inroads. His Highness Meer Ali Moorad rendered good service with his troops on the above occasion, having with General Beatson threaded a defile and moved along tracts covered with sharp stones for nearly 60 miles without a halt; and Sir Charles Napier thus expresses his opinion of the Meer, which on the whole I believe to be a just one, though I give him credit for a larger share of ability than Sir Charles did. "Ali Moorad has behaved well. His presence was a bore because he would not obey orders, and his camp was full of traitors; but he was infinitely less mischievous than I expected, and true himself. I have now the correct measure of his character: good-natured, well-meaning, full of vanity, energetic to do what he likes, not clever, and easily guided. He is wild to go to London, and they won't let him; why, I know not."

It is no more than justice here to insert the translation of a letter from the Governor-General, the late Lord Hardinge, to Meer Ali Moorad, acknowledging His Highness' most important services in the Truckee campaign:—"I have learnt from the report of the Government

of Sindh of your most important services, zeal, and assiduity, rendered by your troops during the late campaign in the province of Sindh; they have been fully made known, and have proved the source of great pleasure to your sincere friend. In reality your diligence, skill, experience, and knowledge during the campaign were praiseworthy, and gained the thanks of your friends; especially the extreme perseverance and exertions with your army during those affairs which terminated so favourably, is a source of congratulation, and I congratulate you accordingly. Oh! kind friend, I expect with sincere hopes that the fruits and the result of these affairs will ever prove peace and tranquillity; and also from your superior intelligence and good administration, I have every confidence that those tribes from whose depredations and attacks many calamities befell the country, have been removed into a neighbouring country, and prevented from committing further excesses. I trust that in future they will prove loyal and peaceable subjects. I hope you will consider me always to be your friend and well-wisher, and the tidings of your good will ever afford me great pleasure."

I must not be held responsible for the accuracy of this translation, which was prepared by a moonshee.

The Cutchee expedition having terminated, a cordon of troops 3000 strong was drawn across the frontier to protect it from future inroads of the hill tribes. This cordon was not however very long necessary, for the Sindh Horse, whose numerous outposts were spread along the frontier, have since, with rare exceptions, been found sufficient to maintain tranquillity. Here a brief sketch of the war services of this distinguished corps may not be unacceptable.

The Sindh Horse were raised in 1839, at the recommendation of Colonel Pottinger, then "Resident in Sindh;" a squadron of the Poonah Horse, at that time serving in Cutch, being transferred to Sindh to form the nucleus of the new corps. The establishment of the regiment was fixed as follows:—

1 Commandant, 1 Second in Command, 1 Adjutant, 1 Rissaldar, 5 Jemadars, 10 Duffadars, 20 Naib Duffadars, 5 Trumpeters, 450 Sowars. The corps had only been formed about three months, when they were employed on service in Eastern Cutchee, in which they highly

distinguished themselves in several smart affairs with the Belooch tribes. Shortly afterwards they were twice successfully engaged with the Bhoogtees; on the second occasion the enemy were defeated with great slaughter, and it was stated that the victory was mainly owing to the distinguished conduct of the Sindh Horse. In April, 1840, a detachment of the regiment, under Lieutenant Clarke, being attacked by the whole Murree tribe near Kahun, was obliged to retreat, Lieutenant Clarke being killed, though offering the most gallant resistance to the last. In August following, a detachment of 100 Sowars, under Ensign Malcolm, formed part of the force under Major Clibborn sent with a large convoy to the relief of Kahun. This force was attacked by the whole Murree tribe near the Nuffoosk Pass. The struggle was severe, but the enemy were beaten off with great loss on both sides. The Sindh Horse had forty men killed and wounded in the affair, with many horses. In the following month the head-quarters of the regiment formed the advanced guard of the force proceeding against the Khan of Khelat, when some severe fighting took place, the enemy suf-

fering severely in an affair near Kunda, in which the "Sindh Horse" lost four men and 11 horses. The detachment was again engaged in the action near Dadur, in which Meer Nusseer Khan and the whole Brahoe army were defeated. In this action the Sindh Horse suffered severely. In 1840 the head-quarters of the Sindh Horse were posted at Chuttur in Eastern Cutchee, for the purpose of holding in check the Belooch tribes, and for preventing communication between Afghanistan and Sindh, a duty of no ordinary difficulty, as about that time the news of the destruction of our force at Cabul, and of all our disasters in Afghanistan, was spread throughout the country, and every possible effort made by our enemies, both above and below the Passes, to stir up the whole of the Beloochees against us in Sindh and Cutchee. A party of a Naigue and seven Sowars, marching from Bhaug towards Kunda in the following month, came suddenly on a large body of Belooch plunderers, whom they instantly charged, but five of their number being severely wounded they were obliged to retire.

Shortly afterwards the strength of the regiment was increased to 600 sabres; and its disci-

pline under the training of Lieutenant Jacob was perfect, although the corps had been constantly employed most actively in Eastern Cutchee, in preventing any combined efforts of hostility on the part of the Belooch tribes. This would have been no easy matter at any time, but under the peculiar circumstances then attending our position in Afghanistan, which was well known to all, and the efforts which were made on every side to stir up the warlike and lawless people against a handful of British troops in Cutchee, the difficulties appeared almost insurmountable; nevertheless the task was accomplished. Although the predatory tribes occasionally assembled in very large numbers under the most skilful and daring of their chiefs, they were never successful, for their most persevering and vigorous efforts were always baffled by the superior vigilance and courage of the men who were opposed to them. The best of the Belooch warriors through this lost their reputation as leaders, and their men would not follow them: doubt and distrust everywhere prevailed among the chiefs, and during the most trying period of our disasters in Afghanistan, perfect tranquillity was main-

tained in a country and among a people where and to whom quiet had been heretofore unknown. This was accomplished by the master mind of Jacob in directing the good swords of his gallant regiment.

On the retirement of the British forces from Afghanistan, the regiment was disposed to protect the line of march of the British troops through Cutchee; and after all had crossed the desert and were encamped at Janadeyra, the regiment, which had been stationed at Chuttur, marched for Khanghur, which was established as an outpost occupied by the Sindh Horse, with a brigade of guns and two companies of infantry, the whole under Jacob.

Early in January, 1843, the Sindh Horse joined the army assembled at Aboobukkur, on the eastern bank of the Indus, under Sir Charles Napier, then moving down against the Ameers of Hyderabad. On the 17th February the "Sindh Horse" formed the advanced guard of the army, with instructions to discover and watch the enemy. This was soon done, as Jacob immediately came on the Belooch army, 20,000 strong, with 15 guns, occupying a strong position in the dry bed of the Fullalie river, pro-

tected by its banks, having a dense Shikargah on their left, and the village of Kattree prepared for defence on their right. As the Sindh Horse approached they were received with a smart fire of artillery. Jacob then formed line at about 500 yards' distance from the enemy, sent a report to the General, and remained halted under a vigorous cannonade until the remainder of the army came up about 9 o'clock. In Sir Charles Napier's report of the battle, as contained in a despatch to the Governor-General dated 18th February, he thus notices the conduct of the Sindh Horse :—

"The gallant charge of the Bengal Cavalry was intrepidly led by Lieut. Colonel Pattle, second in command, and by Major Story; nor were the Sindh Horse under Captain Jacob idle. To this able soldier and his regiment I am indebted for the most active services, long previous to and during the combat. He won the enemy's camp, from which he drove a body of three or four thousand cavalry."

On the 28th March, the Sindh Horse formed the advance guard of the army proceeding to attack Meer Shere Mahomed of Meerpoor; then followed the battle of Hyderabad. In the de-

spatch reporting this engagement to the Governor-General of India, Sir Charles Napier thus mentions the services of the Sindh Horse:—

"The enemy was now perceived to move from his centre in considerable bodies to his left, apparently retreating, unable to sustain the cross fire of the artillery; on seeing which, Major Stack, at the head of the 3rd Cavalry, under command of Captain Delamain, and the Sindh Horse, under command of Captain Jacob, made a brilliant charge upon the enemy's left flank, crossing the Nullah, and cutting down the retreating enemy for several miles."

On the 14th June, the Sindh Horse formed part of a detachment ordered to take the field under Captain Jacob against Meer Shere Mahomed, who, thinking to surprise his camp, moved down upon it before daylight, but Jacob being apprized of his approach left his camp standing, and attacking the Belooch army on its line of march totally defeated it, capturing three guns and several standards.

On the 1st August, 1844, the strength of the regiment was increased to 1002 sabres.

On the 13th January following, the Sindh Horse, with two camel-guns and the Sindh camel-

corps, and European volunteers, made a forced march to Shahpoor, where they surprised a large body of Jakranees, Doomkees, and Boordhias, taking 62 prisoners.

In the following year a second regiment of Sindh Horse was raised, its strength being 802 sabres.

In January, 1847, a detachment from Meerpoor, consisting of 18 Sowars, under command of Ruheem Bucksh Duffadar, came suddenly on a party of 200 predatory horse, whom they instantly charged, and the robbers taking to flight were pursued for about seven miles, the cavalry cutting down many. In October following, Lieutenant Merewether, with 133 of the Sindh Horse, attacked the whole Bhoogtie tribe on a plain near Chuttur, killed 560 of the enemy, and took 120 prisoners. The details of this gallant affair are thus noticed by Sir Charles Napier:—"Lieutenant Merewether issued at once from Shahpoor with 120 Sindh horsemen and some auxiliary Reharies, and soon came upon the Bhoogtees, 700 in number, and strong in courage. They clashed sword against shield and invited the charge, shouting and howling in a singular manner, being, indeed, like wild

beasts hungered and terrible. With a vehement shock Merewether and his horsemen went through them, but they closed again shoulder to shoulder, and slowly retiring under a severe carbine fire crossed a rivulet and made for their rocks. Again they were brought to bay, and when falling fast under fire were offered quarter, but without shrinking they fought until only 120 remained, who threw down their arms. Islam Khan Bhoogtee and Ahmed Khan, the two principal chiefs, were not there, but 18 minor chiefs died under shield, and the tribe of Bhoogtees, those fierce spoliators, those gallant swordsmen, heroic in sentiment and constancy, was utterly destroyed, and the Sindhian frontier remained in peace."

In September, 1848, on a requisition from Captain Edwardes, 500 of the Sindh Horse marched, at a moment's notice, to join General Whish's army before Mooltan, in the close investing of which place they were actively employed during the siege. Having subsequently joined Lord Gough's army, they took part in the battle of Goojerat, in which their gallantry elicited the marked commendation of Sir Joseph Thackwell, commanding the left wing of the army;

who, immediately after their charge upon a large body of Afghan cavalry, whom they utterly routed and drove from the field with the loss of two standards, addressed their commanding officer in the highest terms of praise. The Sindh Horse then took part in the pursuit and captured several guns, and subsequently formed part of the force under Sir Walter Gilbert, which chased the enemy across the Indus, and followed them up to Jumrood, where small parties of the regiment had several encounters with hill-plunderers. The conduct of the Sindh Horse in this campaign was highly praised in the official despatches.

In 1850, a body of marauding horsemen carried off a number of camels between Kundcote and Tungwarree. Information was speedily given to Jemadar Doorgah Singh, who commanded the frontier post, and that officer immediately went in pursuit of the robbers, whom he followed for more than sixty miles into the hills, where they came upon a large body of the enemy, when nearly all his own men, whose horses had failed them, were far behind. Doorgah Singh had only three Sowars with him, and the enemy outnumbered them twenty

to one, and the ground was unfavourable for cavalry, but led away by his own headlong courage, and unappalled by numbers, this brave soldier refused to retire, and, with the two Sowars who nobly stood by him, fell sword in hand, after killing a great number of the enemy. One Kosah Sowar only escaped with life, and he was severely wounded.

Since that bloody encounter, now nearly nine years ago, the border has been perfectly tranquil, the predatory hill tribes never having dared to make an inroad on territory so watched and guarded as the north-west frontier.

In 1857, the 1st regiment of Sindh Horse, mustering 800 sabres, embarked on the Persian expedition, and during the Indian mutiny the men of the Sindh Horse were as distinguished for fidelity to Government as they ever previously had been for devoted gallantry in the field.

In the year 1858, a third regiment was added to this admirable soldiery, but alas, the north-west frontier has lost the master spirit which for years past has so ably and successfully held in check the barbarous tribes that were previously its scourge.

Amongst those who served the Government well during the stirring period of Sir Charles Napier's command in Sindh, few men were more distinguished than his own moonshee, Mirza Ali Acbar Khan Bahadur, as appears by His Excellency's mention of him in several official papers, and especially in a speech at a public dinner, just before he quitted India, as follows:—

"In the wars of Sindh there were some officers who did more for me than I did for them. The first I shall mention is Captain Brown of the Bengal army, who is now dead; a braver and better soldier never lived. Of the second I shall not say anything, as he is a relative of mine, I mean Major McMurdo. But the third, of whom I shall and will speak, is my moonshee, Ali Acbar; this man stood by me in the day of danger; he was of the greatest assistance to me throughout the campaign in Sindh; he was my tongue, and now I find him in disgrace. I am not aware upon what information the Government has acted. I charge no man with injustice, but I have a right to say that Ali Acbar did more for the conquest of Sindh than a thousand soldiers could have done. I

will never abandon a brave soldier; and after all Ali Acbar has done, I find him here in disgrace; and, gentlemen" (said the General with emphasis, and striking the table with his hand), "*I may say he had no trial.*"

Ali Acbar had previously served as moonshee on the personal staff of Lord Kean throughout the Afghan campaign, and was present at the storming of Ghuznee. I feel no surprise at Sir Charles Napier's eulogistic mention of Mirza Ali Acbar, as when at Khyrpoor I was assured that his services, after the surrender of the Beloochee stronghold of Truckee, were of the most important description, as contributive, in a high degree, to the successful result of a very difficult and dangerous mission to the Murree chief Deen Mahomed.

Ali Acbar is well known to many of the most distinguished personages in England, as a man of first-rate ability; indeed, one of the brightest ornaments of the British parliament not very long since observed: "We need not go beyond the walls of this house to find a head bronzed by an Indian sun, equal to the ablest heads that adorn its benches." Such is Ali Acbar!

Now, however, I shall quit the north-west frontier, and conduct my reader back to Sukkur, Bukkur, and Roree. There was formerly a bridge of boats across the Indus at the latter place, and a proposal for a suspension bridge spanning the river between the towns of Sukkur and Roree has been made to Government at an estimated cost of five lakhs of rupees. It certainly is not likely, in the present exhausted state of the Indian Government Treasury, that so large a sum can be just now spared for this purpose, but as the passage is much frequented, lying as it does on the junction of several great roads, it is very necessary that some better means for passing the river than those at present in existence should be at once established, for much inconvenience is experienced by travellers at all hours of the day, but especially before sunrise and after sunset, when it is impossible to procure a boat for hire. The fact I believe is, that the boatmen earn so much money between sunrise and sunset, that they are indifferent about inconveniencing the public, and, furthermore, they know that all passengers who have occasion to cross must fall to the lot of some of their fraternity. Roree and Sukkur

being on the high road from Jessulmeer to Shikarpoor, and the traffic very great between those cities, long strings of camels are at all hours to be seen waiting for a passage across the river, which at best is a very troublesome and lengthy business. Such a string of camels did we on first visiting Roree find calmly seated on the sand, not very far from the island of Satee, and not knowing the way to the town we followed a stream of Bunneeahs, or native dealers, some three or four respectable-looking Mahomedans, and a bevy of Kunchunnees [dancing girls] with their attendant musicians, and trudged across the ancle-deep sand to the steep ascent to the town of Roree, a very ancient place, standing on a rocky height overlooking the Indus.

On inquiry for the house of Kazee Jan Mahomed, one of the Meer's most trusted servants, we were conducted up and down a number of very intricate, steep, and narrow streets, or rather lanes, which led to the dwelling of that well-known individual. Some of these thoroughfares were so narrow, that we could scarcely find space to pass some rather vicious-looking she-buffaloes whom we met on

our way. At length, however, we reached our friend's domicile, and were ushered into the *Dewan-i-aum*, or Hall of Audience, a large apartment, with an opening in the roof for the egress of smoke. The Kazee and his brother were delighted to see us, and we were speedily introduced to several of the notables of the town. This was the first native gentleman's house that I had entered in Sindh, and I cannot say that I was particularly struck with its appearance. The furniture consisted of three Charpoys, constructed of the commonest wood, and coarsest string, the said Charpoys answering for table, chair, couch, wardrobe, everything. Over the string-bottom of each was laid a small carpet, on which some sat *à l'Anglaise*, but the greater number in Eastern fashion; all but myself were smoking the small pipe or Hubble-bubble of the country, and I rather think that I was almost the only person in Sindh who was not a smoker.

Roree, or Bunder Loharee as it was formerly called, is generally alluded to in connection with Bukkur; indeed, the old people to this day almost invariably speak of it as Roree-Bukkur. Both places have for ages

been celebrated for their religious establishments of Seyuds and holy men, with whose tombs both banks of the river are studded, and whose memories are still held in reverence. The title "Bukkur," which signifies in Arabic "the dawn," is supposed to have been given by a holy Seyud to the island so called, some years after the erection of the fortress, for which materials were furnished from the ruins of the old city of Allore. Roree is the head-quarters of a Deputy Collectorate, but the European functionaries reside over the river at Sukkur. The town is remarkably clean, and was formerly a place of some commercial importance, but its palmy days have passed away, though an attempt has been lately made to revive some of its manufactures. The *Jooma Musgid*, or Chief Mosque of Roree, is the only public edifice worthy of remark. This building, as appears by an inscription therein, was erected by Futteh Khan in the reign of the emperor Acbar, who conquered Sindh in 1572. The author of "Dry Leaves from Young Egypt" is of opinion that the change in the course of the Indus from Allore to Roree actually took place in the year 341 A.H, corresponding with 925 A.D., and that

soon after the divergence of the stream the population of Allore began to migrate to Roree. This seems probable enough, but Allore must still have been a city of some importance in the reign of Acbar, as it is mentioned by Abul Fazel in the *Ayeen Akbery*, as one of the twenty-eight places which were then allowed the privilege of a mint for copper coin. It may therefore, I think, reasonably be inferred that Allore was still considered the most important city in that newly conquered Province, or the preference would have been given to Roree or Sukkur.

Passing the tomb-covered heights above Roree in an easterly direction for five miles or so, one comes upon a bridge about 500 feet in length, over what must have been a branch of the Indus, though it never could have been the main channel of the river. In the bed of this channel are two stones, bearing an inscription to the effect that they were set up by Mahomed Masum to mark the ancient course of the river. The bridge itself was also probably built by that munificent nobleman. A little beyond the bridge is a miserable village, and further on a stony ridge covered with ruins, such being all that now remains of Allore, or Arore, a Hindoo

city of supposed great antiquity, and the seat of Government of Upper Sindh, as Brahminabad was of Lower Sindh, prior to the Mahomedan invasion in the year of the Hegiree 93. Abul Fazel in reference to this latter place says, "In ancient times the capital was Brahminabad, which was then a very populous city. The fort had 1400 bastions, a tenab distant from each other; and to this day there are considerable vestiges of this fortification." I imagine that this must have reference to the ruins of Kullian Kot, near Tatta, and that time and distance must have rather magnified the extent of these fortifications in the imagination of the Emperor Acbar's wise minister. Some, however, believe that Bambura, a ruined city in the Delta, is the site of Brahminabad. Amongst the ruins nothing is worthy of notice, save an edifice called the mosque of Alumgeer, and the tombs of two holy Seyuds which are held in great veneration, Shukur Gunj Shah and Khalifah Kootoobudeen Shah. The memory of the former is held in reverent regard by the people of the country around, who make a pilgrimage to his tomb twice a month. These Zeyaruts being to the great advantage of the

resident villagers, who thus find a ready market for the produce of their little farms in the neighbourhood of the ruins.

Roree, like Sukkur, is remarkable for the numerous tombs which cover the heights behind the town, and are many of them of great size and beauty, being faced with caussee work, or encaustic bricks of the brightest colours and most enduring material, set in a vast variety of patterns.

The Seyuds of Roree pretend to possess a hair from the beard of their prophet, and the people of the country firmly believe whatever the Seyuds think fit to tell them. These Seyuds are a privileged class; indeed, were any one to strike a Seyud he would probably be put to death by the populace. Roree swarms with them, and they are the most useless and lazy members of the community, exercising a baneful influence on the minds, whilst taxing the pockets of the deluded people. Every evening the streets swarm with Seyudnees, who wear a loose white garment and a thick veil, and beg from house to house. Notwithstanding their professed sanctity, some of these ladies are, however, said to be rather given to intrigue,

which their dress is well calculated to further. The sacred hair of the prophet Mahomed, *Mooe-moobaruk*, as it is called, is preserved in a golden tube, or case, set with precious stones; the hair itself, which is only exhibited to the faithful, "on Fridays, for a consideration," is of a flaming red colour. The Moojawur, who has charge of the sacred hair, declares that it was brought from Mecca, by an ancestor of his own, 323 years ago. The said person, being on a pilgrimage, married a lady of influential connections, and her family presented him with the sacred relic, as the most precious gift in their power to offer, and the office of Moojawur has descended from generation to generation to the present incumbent, who exhibits the *Mooe-moobaruk* on the appointed days, to the great advantage of his own pecuniary interests, as the recipient of all offerings of the faithful at the shrine of the relic.

Roree, being situated at the junction of the high roads from Hyderabad to Mooltan, and from Jessulmeer to Shikarpoor, is likely to increase in importance, as the traffic increases between those points; and whilst I was in Sindh the number of camels that passed along

the first-named route far exceeded what had ever been known before. The land revenue of this extensive district is estimated at about three lakhs of rupees per annum, and it was expected that this would be somewhat increased, with the completion of the permanent survey and settlement in progress during my stay in Sindh. Although the European officers of the district reside on the opposite bank of the river, which I think objectionable, the conservancy of the town and its police are, I believe, unexceptionable, and although not a wealthy place, it certainly bears an appearance of comfort and prosperity, superior to most native towns in Sindh.

CHAPTER VII.

A Belooch Official—Arrival at Khyrpoor—Mrs Gholaum Husseyn—The Court of Khyrpoor—Meer Roostum—Family Dissensions—Meer Ali Moorad—Disregard of Beloochee Feudalism and Clanship—Dilapidated Appearance of Khyrpoor—The Bazaar—Narrow Streets—Military Establishment of the Meer—Method of Firing a Salute—Meer Ali Moorad's Return from Europe—Rejoicings on his Arrival—An Illumination—The Dobagha—Beggars and Seyudnees—First Introduction into Sindhian Society—Meer Khan Mahomed—A Sindhian Entertainment—Beloochee Habits at Table—Camel Riding—Hawking—Hawks in Use with the Sindhians—Sindhian Promises—A Swearing Official—The Meer's Stud—Projected Improvements.

THE Meer having at length announced his arrival in the neighbourhood of Khyrpoor, and requested us to join him there, I sent instructions to his agent at Sukkur to provide us with a *Dundi*, a large boat of the Indus, to take us down the river to Nauchee, a favourite hunting spot of His Highness, where a large Landee, or building of reeds, had been erected for his accommodation. There we found awaiting us the Kardar, or head of the district of Bubburloo,

the frontier town in Meer Ali Moorad's territory, who had horses in readiness for our use, and asses to convey our baggage. This worthy Kardar was the first specimen I had seen of a Belooch official, and a very favourable specimen he was; being a large, good-looking man, abounding in beard, with black curling locks down to his shoulders. The weather being cold, he wore an Afghan poshteen, or coat of skin, with the fur side inwards, and handsomely embroidered without, his costume being completed with long buff leather boots, likewise embroidered. The Kardar's manners were very frank and pleasing, and he appeared anxious to afford us every accommodation in his power. At about 4 p. m. we mounted our horses, the common yaboos of the country, and cantered across the cultivated ground, till we got into the high road from Roree to Hyderabad, which runs nearly parallel to the river, and was marked out and measured by order of Sir Charles Napier. Passing some most productive-looking land, and other which appeared as if snow had lately fallen on it, from the crust of saltpetre which covered the surface, we passed the flourishing village of Thérie, and soon after

came in sight of the capital of Upper Sindh. A bright full moon lighted us into Khyrpoor, and after wandering about for some time, both our guide and Portuguese servant having dropped into the rear, we had some difficulty in finding out the place appointed for our dwelling. At length, however, this was accomplished, and we were conducted to Meer Sohrab's bungalow, as it is called, a ruinous old house facing the parade. This mansion certainly wore a very unpromising aspect, but the news of our advent fast flying through the town, we soon were supplied with fire, and food, and charpoys to lie on, but no preparation whatever had been made for us by the Meer's Moohtyar Kar, who, with the other officials, being absent at His Highness' camp, a few miles distant, we should have fared but badly without the assistance of one of his servants, Gholaum Husseyn, and his little English wife, who was delighted to see white faces again, and did her best to make us comfortable. So after a hearty supper we rolled ourselves up in our *ruzzares*, *Anglice* wadded quilts, and blankets, for the weather was bitterly cold, and lying down on our charpoys were soon fast asleep.

On awaking at daylight I confess that I did not like the aspect of domestic affairs. Our Portuguese servant, moreover, was sulky, and disgusted with the appearance of things, and well might he be so, poor fellow; but after a little while a bheesty, or water-carrier, a sweeper, and a scampish boy to run of errands, were added to our establishment. These cleaned out a room in our house, kindled a large fire on the hearth, and having most of the indispensables with us, we soon achieved a tolerable breakfast. Shortly after came a friendly letter from the Meer, saying he should be at home in the evening, when everything we required would be provided, and all possible attention paid to our comfort; the messenger, moreover, brought a bag of rupees. In the course of the morning arrived our friend the Shahzada Sooltaun Jan, who, observing that we had not a chair to sit on, very kindly sent us a couple, with a sutrungee, or large cotton carpet, for our sitting-room. From the Shahzada we heard a deplorable, though, alas, very correct, account of the Khyrpoor bazaar, wherein neither fowls nor eggs were procurable, and the only meat to be found was of the most

unhealthy complexion. This was somewhat a disappointment after the Meer's *couleur-de-rose* description of his capital, both as regards productions and climate.

Amongst our other visitors was a very intelligent moonshee, who had just returned from the Persian expedition, and was on his way to see his family at Dejee Kot. Being well acquainted with Khyrpoor, we requested him to accompany us in a ramble about the town, and in our way gathered a good deal of information. Khyrpoor, although it was considered the capital of Upper Sindh, and the seat of Government of one portion of the Talpoor family, must, in its best days, have been a small and insignificant place; albeit that seventeen Ameers, the sons and grandsons of His Highness Meer Roostum, and his brother Meer Moobarak Khan, resided there. The palace of the sovereign is a mean building of one story, containing at the end a large *Dewan-i-Aum*, or Hall of Audience, with private apartments behind. The whole is in very dilapidated condition, but coloured outside in a variety of patterns, and erected on an elevated mound to be out of reach of the inundation, which, when

at its height, floods all the lower grounds, and rises to within a few feet of the walls; indeed, the waters have more than once threatened destruction to all Khyrpoor. Some other half-dozen houses or so of the ex-Ameer's are still standing, but the whole have a very tumble-down appearance, and a vast assemblage of roofless ruins, the walls alone being standing, to the north of the principal dwelling, mark the spot where, in former days, dwelt the court of Khyrpoor. These buildings mostly stand within the crumbling walls of a mud fort, which never could have been a place of any strength. The principal building was the palace of Meer Roostum, the eldest son of Meer Sohrab, whose death, when upwards of ninety years of age, was occasioned by a fall from a window in the one that we occupied; Meer Roostum thus became head of the Khyrpoor Talpoors, and was much beloved by his people. In early youth he had been a gallant leader, and on one occasion having obtained permission of his father, Meer Sohrab, to attack Sukkur, which was then held by the Afghans, he captured and sacked the town. In his latter years Meer Roostum, according to popular rumour, was much ad-

dicted to bhung, an intoxicating drink prepared from the leaves, husks, and seeds of hemp, ground and mixed up with water, milk and other additions,—this is the pet tipple of Sindhians, and whether the above rumour was well founded or not, it is admitted by all that Meer Roostum was an old man of the kindest disposition, and most dignified appearance and manners. The likeness of this venerable prince in "Dry Leaves from Young Egypt" was shown by myself to many persons at Khyrpoor, all of whom declared it to be a most life-like picture. In his latter years Meer Roostum was unequal to state affairs, and allowed himself to be guided in all things by Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, his very clever, though some say rather unscrupulous, minister. Captain Postans, whom I believe to have been an impartial biographer, thus speaks of Meer Roostum:

"Meer Roostum having a large family including no less than eight sons, intrigues at his court embittered his latter days, by sowing the seeds of dissension between him and his children. It would have been difficult to have found in the whole territory of Sindh a man of a more amiable or inoffensive private character, apart

from the weaknesses peculiar to age, than this venerable prince, whose grey hairs, fine countenance, and kind manners, always induced a strong predilection in his favour from all who were brought into communication with him: he had, moreover, the additional merit of having on every prior occasion met the propositions of the various British authorities for increased communication with and through his country without a moment's hesitation; but years and infirmities induced a carelessness as to the vital interests of his Government, and he was latterly beset by designing counsellors, whose short-sighted policy and ambitious views of self-aggrandisement plunged this prince into constant difficulties and family broils. In mutual distrusts, intrigues, dissensions, and family quarrels, the Khyrpoor family assimilated completely to their brethren in Lower Sindh, and latterly became even worse; Meer Roostum was, it is true, respected and even beloved by his court and all classes of his subjects, but it required here, as at Hyderabad, an active head to unravel the petty, though tangled, web of an Indian Durbar, and keep it in anything like order. An old man in his dotage, and addicted

to opiates and intoxicating stimulants, was little able to play so important a part, and at his court were some of the most restless and intriguing characters in Sindh. The consequence was a general dismemberment of the family, and at the old chief's death, which in the course of nature might be soon expected, it is highly probable the Hyderabad authority in the olden state of affairs, but, according to late arrangements, the British Government, would have had to settle the question of succession to his possessions; his younger brother about to be introduced was looking with anxious eye to seize the lion's share. His next brother, Meer Moobaruck, died in 1839, leaving a large family of five sons, the eldest of whom, Nusir Khan, inherited the greater portion of his father's property, sufficient provision being made for his brothers. Gholaum Hyder, the son of Meer Tarah, was another member of this branch, but his younger brother, Meer Ali Moorad, is the most distinguished character of the Khyrpoor family, possessing unbounded ambition and great tact, combined with considerable talent: this prince was always proud, consistent, and unswerving in his purpose of independence and

aggrandisement. In person, Meer Ali Moorad is remarkably handsome, dark complexioned, and about forty years of age; his mother is said to have been of the Beloochee tribe of Murrees, which may account for his possessing unusual swarthiness. The general bearing of this chief is singularly dignified, courteous, and prepossessing; but while distinguished for the accomplishments usual in the East, he is unfortunately addicted to the wine-cup, and indulges somewhat too freely in the enticing liquors forbidden by the Koran. At present however these habits, although existing, do not appear to affect either the health or character of the Meer, who is in the pride of manhood, with a clear, intelligent mind, which up to the present time has been quite capable of coping with the difficulties of his position. And his countenance does not yet betray any of those distressing appearances of undue indulgence in the common stimulants of the East, which never fail to set their stamp upon the features of those who indulge in such means of self-abasement. Meer Ali Moorad has always evinced the greatest jealousy at any interference in his affairs, and has stood aloof from the Beloochee clanship,

which prevails in both the Hyderabad and Khyrpoor families. His retainers, Kardars, men of business, are foreigners, and his troops, of whom he keeps a considerable standing force, are composed entirely of mercenaries from Hindustan, Cabool, the Punjaub, and Bhawulpoor. Beloochee feudalism forms a secondary part of his system, and thus was completely at variance with the usage of his country, and he has thus stood in an isolated position, as it were, from his brother chiefs. It is easy to perceive that ambition must, in the first instance, have induced Ali Moorad to pursue a policy so diametrically opposed to the form of government and practices of his forefathers, and he, probably, anticipated some rupture at the Hyderabad or Khyrpoor courts, when he would have made a dash, aided by foreign troops, at the power of the whole; such plans, if devised, would have hardly succeeded, but latterly he became closely connected with the British Government, and his views, if they were so directed, were unexpectedly matured, and produced a premature result he could formerly have little anticipated, as will be understood hereafter."

But to return to my cicerone, the moonshee: "There, Sahib," said he, pointing to the principal bungalow, "Meer Roostum always presided in the durbar, and what between his own sons and those of Meer Moobaruk, and Futteh Mahomed Ghoree and his sons, for all regularly attended the durbar, that *Dewan-i-Aum* was pretty well filled, and petitioners, or others having business with the prince, sat on the *chubootra*, or platform outside, as did the inferior moonshees." An appearance of poverty and shabbiness seems however to have pervaded the whole, which showed the unsatisfactory state of the treasury; but so simple were the habits of the sovereign and his courtiers, that had not the revenues been frittered away by jagheers, and grants to relatives and hangers-on, they would more than have sufficed to cover all expenditure, but as it was, the Meer's income was barely sufficient to cover his personal expenses. "As compared with the present state of things, however," continued the moonshee, "Khyrpoor was then a prosperous city—all those houses [pointing to the crumbling and roofless walls] were occupied by the Ameers and their retainers, whose expenditure caused

the bazaar to be flourishing and prosperous, and Kunchunnees* could then be counted by the score, covered with jewels, whilst now the city does not contain half a dozen, and those half-starved."

The city of Khyrpoor stands in a well-cultivated plain, surrounded by fine gardens; its bazaar extends from north to south for a few hundred yards, and passing a lofty gateway turns eastward for about the same distance, some small streets branching off from the main one. The shops are miserably poor, as Meer Ali Moorad is never at Khyrpoor for more than three days together; indeed, when he does honour the capital with his presence, his ill-paid retainers are by no means welcome in the bazaar, as their purchases are generally made on credit, if they can get it, which is hardly to be wondered at, when it is considered that their pay is generally six or eight months in arrear. The *Mooktyar Kar*, or Prime Minister, the *Meer Moonshee*, and one or two other well-paid officials only, ever reside at Khyrpoor, and the town being destitute of trade, everybody in it, save some few wealthy Hindoos, has the most

* Dancing girls.

poverty-stricken appearance. The only public building is a very shabby-looking mosque, covered with lacquered tiles in lamentable disrepair. The streets of Khyrpoor are so narrow that in many places there is barely room for two carts to pass each other in the principal thoroughfares; but carts are not numerous, and the Meer's old phaeton is the only carriage in His Highness' dominions, which is fortunate, as, requiring more space than a cart, there must, inevitably, be a dead-lock if a second vehicle of equal size were encountered. Meer Shah Nowaz, too, is a very Jehu in coachmanship, and on one occasion his furious driving nearly cost me my life. At a sudden turn we were all but over an old woman, and to save her the prince drove over the steps of a house door, the mares being at the time beyond control, and all but running away. The carriage turned right over, and I was underneath; Meer Shah Nowaz was projected like a shell from a mortar, and escaped unhurt, but I was severely cut and bruised, and probably should have been killed, had not the horse-keepers and two silver sticks in front stopped the mares at the moment. Some few Hindoos have tolerable houses, and

one or two Mahomedans, to whom Jagheers have been granted, by reason of Meer Ali Moorad having married their sisters, who were *Kunchunnees*, or dancing girls, previously. The population of the place was formerly estimated at fifteen thousand, but does not now amount to one-third that number, and the inhabitants generally have an unhealthy, aguish look, and suffer much from that disease on the abatement of the inundation, from the number of hollows in and about the town, wherein the water remains stagnant, until evaporated by heat. The drinking water too is generally brackish, except in one particular well. The Ameers, I was told, always had water brought from the Indus for their own drinking, and when the Meerwa canal was full, its water was preferred to that of the wells.

After perambulating Khyrpoor in all directions we terminated our excursion at the parade, where the Meer's artillery were in readiness to fire a salute on the arrival of His Highness, who was momentarily expected. Four small guns, in indifferent condition, were paraded, and the Meer's standard was displayed, its colours being green and orange. The guns

were manned by twenty-five Golundauze, Punjaubees, and Hindustanees, and fine trustworthy old soldiers they seemed to be. They fire a salute very respectably, but I had no opportunity of testing their expertness as artillerists. The artillery are under command of Mr Francis Feeney, a very worthy and estimable European, who is well known to, and respected by, all the inhabitants of Khyrpoor. He also presides over the city Udaulut, and was English tutor to Meer Shah Nowaz, the heir-apparent. The foot soldiers, who have been reduced in number to fifty, are Rohillas and Khorassanees, armed with swords and blunderbusses, which last do good service in a *battue*, from the tremendous noise they make on being discharged, but are hardly calculated for modern warfare. His Highness' Horse were all out in camp, so I had no opportunity of inspecting them until afterwards.

Meer Ali Moorad's arrival at his capital, after returning from Europe, was marked by public rejoicings; a double royal salute was fired as he entered Khyrpoor shortly after sunset; the city was illuminated in honour of his advent, and the affectionate reception that he experi-

enced from the people of all castes and grades was most touching. The Meer was attended by a numerous cavalcade, all of whom, not excepting his own sons, dismounted at the entrance gate, the Meer alone riding up the slope to the edge of the durbar carpet. There His Highness also dismounted. Some of his principal officers were honoured with an embrace on meeting them, especially his Wukeel, Hafiz Hookoomut Khan. Many of the inferior classes threw themselves at their sovereign's feet, and embraced them, and he had a kind word for all! After a few minutes' conversation with Mr I—— and myself, His Highness invited us to breakfast at the *Dobagha*, a favourite garden, which was formerly the Khyrpoor Residency, and is situated just outside the town. The Meer then proceeded to visit his mother, whom he always treats with the greatest respect and honour; also the mother of his two younger sons, the latter being a lady of vast proportions. Of course I state this on hearsay, though not exactly on hearsay alone, having had an opportunity of seeing a portion of her apparel, termed *sootane*, which is Sindhi for inexpressibles, and formed part of a suit, which Her

Highness presented to little Mrs Gholaum, the Englishwoman before mentioned, as married to one of the Meer's suite, who displayed them to Mr I—— and myself in wonder and admiration, for verily the garment would have been a goodly fit for the late Monsieur Lablache!

On the following morning we, after a slight breakfast, proceeded to the *Dobagha*, which is just across the Meerwa canal, then a deep bed of dry sand. On our way we found the streets swarming with beggars and Seyudnees, the latter being holy women, who profess never to uncover their faces. These were awaiting a distribution of the flesh of several buffaloes which had just been killed to feed the poor. The *Dobagha*, a fine garden of many acres of mango, orange, lemon, and pomegranate trees, contains the walls of the former Residency, an excellent house in the English style, but now gone to ruin. Here we found an immense crowd assembled to receive His Highness, Ameers, *Tayeefahs* of dancing girls, an Afghan prince, Moonshees, and musicians, all expectant of notice, preferment, and reward: a couple of tents had been pitched for His Highness' accommodation, and a Landee, or temporary edifice of reeds,

erected, wherein to hold a durbar. A large carpet was spread throughout the Landee, and at the upper end was placed a charpoy or couch, which in Sindh does duty for a throne.

This was my first introduction into Sindhian society, and I was almost stunned with affectionate inquiries after my "health," "happiness," "perfect happiness," "contentment," "entire contentment," &c.; the said inquiries being proffered in a tone of such intense interest that one could almost imagine them to be sincere! Of course, too, I had to reply in kind, and I was not sorry for interruption, in the arrival, at a sharp gallop, of Meer Khan Mahomed, His Highness' youngest son, an extraordinarily "fat boy" of fifteen, who announced that his father was close at hand; and the Meer, who had been out hunting, almost immediately rode into the garden, looking exceedingly well. His Highness, as I have before said, is a large man, of most noble presence, which he is quite aware of, and aims at effect. He rides gracefully, quite in the English style, and was tastefully dressed in a tightly fitting tunic of green velvet, with gold filigree buttons, and a small coronet-shaped cap. On dismounting, he shook hands with us

in a most friendly manner, gave a gracious greeting to all present, and then invited Mr I—— and myself into his khilwut, or private tent, for the purpose of discussing his own affairs, as we had been separated for some weeks from him. After giving me some brief instructions regarding letters, we returned to the durbar tent, and in a few moments breakfast was placed before him. The Meer, who had previously been seated on his state charpoy, descended to the carpet, on which he squatted, with his sons and relatives at either side and in front of him. The meal appeared to be both rich and substantial; roast partridges, cutlets of the para, or hog-deer, with a variety of pillaos, both sweet and savoury, formed the staple of the feast. These were served partly in dishes of English make, that had once been plated, partly in copper dishes, such as are used by the commonest natives. Each of the *convives* helped himself and fed with his hand, for knives, forks, and spoons are unknown conveniences at the Khyrpoor banquets, and His Highness appeared to have forgotten the use of such things. In England no one could behave with more propriety at table than Meer Ali Moorad,

but now that he was once more in Sindh, he resumed his Belooch habits, especially that one which Don Quixote exhorted Sancho Panza to forego, on taking charge of his Government. His Highness joining after breakfast in those salvos, which, however, unmelodious to English ears, and incompatible with English ideas of breeding, are very differently looked on by Orientals, and are indulged in accordingly, especially after a hearty breakfast, each individual in the same breath uttering the ejaculation of "*Ul-humd-o-lillah,*" Thanks be to God, in token of the satisfaction that he experienced. After breakfast the Meer gave audience to some of his principal officers, and then summoned his musicians, who had recently arrived from Bombay, to delight his friends with their enchanting strains. His Highness afterwards retired to his private tent to enjoy his midday slumber, and we returned to our bungalow. In the afternoon we attended the Meer out hawking, and very good sport we had at partridge, plover, and curlews, the common green plover, or peewit, affording better sport than the other birds. On this occasion I was mounted on one of the Meer's best riding-camels, the pace of which I

found remarkably smooth and easy, even when moving at its fleetest trot, and for travelling a camel is far less fatiguing than a horse. I speak though of the best description of riding-camel only, as the paces of baggage-camels are exceedingly rough and unpleasant to the rider. The best riding-camels are procured from Mikran, and their speed and powers of endurance are very great. The camel-saddle of Sindh is extremely comfortable, being covered with a soft well-padded saddle-cloth. The saddle is divided into two compartments, so as to accommodate as many persons,—the master generally sitting behind, having in front the servant, who guides the animal by a cord fastened to a piece of wood that passes through the nostril. The attitude of a camel when rising is very unpleasant to a rider unaccustomed to it; as the camel first raises its hind-quarters, and one feels as if about to fly over the animal's head. For hawking, a horse is far preferable to a camel, as the quarry occasionally leads one a smart gallop. Meer Ali Moorad's hawks are, some of them, very fine, and he spares no expense to obtain the best procurable from Khorassan and other countries.

Sir Alexander Burnes gives the following list of Falcons and Hawks in use with the Sindhians:

Jagger (Laghar), Female. Jagger (Jaghar), Male.		A large long-winged hawk, native of Sindh, with dark eye. This bird is much used in Sindh, for quail, partridge, curlew, bustard, and hares. After the season is over, hawks of this description are turned loose.
Baz (Shahbaz), Female. Zorru (Jurrah), Male.		King of the hawks—a large grey Goshawk with yellow eyes, from Khorassan. A noble bird, very strong and active, costs 50 or 60 rupees when well trained.
Churgh, Churghela,	Female. Male.	A native of Cuthee, used for hunting

		the antelope and tuloor, or floriken.
Bashu,	Female.	Native of Khorassan.
Bashee,	Male.	Goolab eye, small, short-winged hawks, with dark plumage; are much valued, as killing hawks.
Bhairi, Shahen,	Female. Male.	The Falcon. Sir A. Burnes states that this bird is not prized in Sindh; but this is a mistake, for I know that it is highly prized for strength and boldness. They are flown at partridges, hares, bustards, curlews, herons, and sâras, or cranes, which stand full 6 feet high. These are long-winged

		hawks, or birds of the lure.
Kotree,	Female.	Also called Shaheen.
Koheela,	Male.	
Zoorooratis,	Female.	Native of Sindh.
Chalway,	Male.	
Shikrah,	Female.	Native of Sindh; are
Chippak,	Male.	very similar to the English sparrow-hawk, and are killing birds at partridges, but of small value.

The long-winged falcons swoop from the air upon their quarry with the rapidity of lightning, and strike it to the earth, whilst the short-winged hawks pursue the game in a horizontal line with much rapidity, and kill it by strength of wing. The Shikrah is, says Burton, flown at his game in this wise: being unhooded and held daintily in the falconer's hand, so as not to ruffle his plumage, he is, as it were, bowled after the game as it rises, and in half a minute the partridge's career is ended, the birds close, "Luga, Luga!" "Struck, Struck!" shout a score of voices, down they come, victor and victim,

but the quarry undermost and concealed from view almost by the outspread wings of the hawk, which fiercely pecks at the dying partridge. "Ao bucha," "Come, my child," cries the falconer in a tender tone of endearment, and turning the poor partridge on its back, draws his knife across its throat, says the "bismilla," without which animal life is never taken, then splitting the head of the partridge, he gives the brains to the hawk, and occasionally the heart and breast. The partridge, in open ground, seldom holds up above a minute, but where there are thorn bushes it sometimes baffles its pursuer for half an hour. Grey partridges are looked on as unclean birds, from preferring to feed on the roads rather than the grain-fields. The *kala tetur*, or black partridge, is a splendid bird, about the size of a hen pheasant, its plumage somewhat resembling the English starling, every feather being dotted with silvery white. The cock birds have long spurs, by which sometimes the hawks are injured in a death struggle. In a very short time the little Shikrahs had killed each five or six partridges, in the whole about twenty brace, when the Meer turned off towards some low ground, with

tall thick trees about it. There we soon flushed a green plover, which appeared in an agony of fear the moment that the little basha, or shikrah, was bowled at him,* and shrieks of "peewit, peewit," filled the air, but the plover would not give in "without a squeak for it." The quarry made for the nearest tree, as once within the shelter of its branches he felt secure, and sure enough would there find safety, if the falconers were not to interfere, but sticks and stones were showered into the branches, and the poor peewit was driven to seek other shelter; again and again the hawk stooped at him, but each time missed her victim by its rapid movements. At length the poor plover began to show symptoms of fatigue; his movements became less rapid, the hawk discovered the distress of her victim, and at length closed and brought the plover to the ground. One of these birds gave us capital sport for a full quarter of an hour of incessant movement. When the sun had almost disappeared we entered some low grass-grounds where curlew abounded, two or three of which were killed, and amongst the number a king-curlew, a very handsome bird with a crimson

* Burton.

crown, but none of them afforded sport; by this time it had become too dark to fly the hawks, so we returned to Khyrpoor. We should, probably, have accomplished more during the afternoon, had not the Meer repeatedly stopped to hold conversation with the villagers, who came out to congratulate him on his safe return, and prefer requests on the subject of wells, &c. They certainly, on leaving him, appeared well satisfied with the assurances of their sovereign, though whether those promises have ever been fulfilled is another affair, for Sindhians, whether prince or peasant, have, probably, as little regard for truth as any people in the world; indeed, a political officer, in reporting upon the different members of the Khyrpoor durbar, states, in reference to Meer Zungee, a relative of Meer Ali Moorad, that the particular duty of this Meer is to swear to the fulfilment of any promise that His Highness Meer Ali Moorad thinks fit to make. If this be really a fact, Meer Zungee could have had no sinecure of his office!

Shortly after Meer Ali Moorad's return, a letter was received from Mr Brunton, Superintending Engineer of the Punjaub Railway, requesting permission for a day's shooting for himself

and assistants. The Meer, who is ever courteous, especially to English gentlemen, directed me to send off a Sowar to Sukkur, where the railway staff were halted, with a letter of invitation for them to join him on the following day, and several of them accordingly came over to breakfast. Unfortunately, we were not in very good shooting ground; however, Mr Brunton made a tolerable bag, and His Highness pressed him to remain till next day, when we were to beat his favourite moharees on the island opposite Nauchee. Mr Brunton had, however, sent on his tents and baggage one stage on the way to Mooltan; thus he was unable to avail himself of the Meer's hospitality, which I was very sorry for, as to fall in with so clever and agreeable a man as Mr Brunton was no ordinary acquisition in the Sindh jungles.

On the following morning, I was informed that His Highness had ordered breakfast at a certain well about six miles distant, and presently a horseman came galloping in from camp to say that he desired my attendance as soon as possible. Accordingly I proceeded there, and found the Meer sitting in a very small tent with his Mooktyar Kar, Moorad Khan, Hote

Singh, and Kissun Dass, the head moonshee. After a brief conversation, His Highness informed me that the commissioner would be at Sukkur in four days, and that he wished me to prepare a memorandum of the different subjects on which he proposed addressing that high functionary, respecting his future management of the Khyrpoor state. The Meer, finding that the darogha of the stable had given me a wretched horse, directed that I should be provided with a fine grey Turcoman, fully equal to my weight, with splendid action, and, as I afterwards found, great powers of endurance, for on one occasion I was eight hours in the saddle, and most part of the time in a smart canter. Meer Ali Moorad has a very fine stud of horses, to which he added half a dozen first-rate Arabs on passing through Bombay, and in his selection of them he seemed to be a good judge, according to our English ideas of a horse's points, figure, and action. The Meer's horses, as all others in Sindh, are invariably kept saddled during the day. This practice is supposed to harden the skin and render it less liable to gall, and I believe that it has that effect; at any rate sore backs are rare, except with the yaboos of

the followers, which are scantily fed and much overloaded. The Meer's horses consume a great deal of grain, or at least have the credit of doing so, though, as every horsekeeper has a yaboo of his own, I suspect that a portion of the horse's feed falls to the yaboo's share. The evening feed is six *seers*, or about three-quarters of a peck of *jow*, or barley, but occasionally *bussee* or maize; and in the morning, after watering, each horse gets his *niharee*, or breakfast, consisting of one pound of flour, one pound of *goor*, or coarse sugar, and the like quantity of *ghee*, clarified butter. This is made up into balls, and when accustomed to the diet, after a few days' use, horses become very fond of the mixture, which fattens them prodigiously. After the *niharee* the bridles are put on, and the horses stand for an hour or two before grass is given to them. When horses are not required for work, they never get walking exercise in Sindh; however, they seem to digest their food well, and their legs never swell at their pickets. Gripes and worms seem to be the most prevalent diseases amongst them. For the former a large dose of melted *ghee* is administered; for the latter a small dose of mercury, which

medicine seems to be a good deal in use amongst the Sindhians. The Sindh saddle is somewhat like that of our Hussars; it is very strong, simple in its construction, and has an equal pressure on the back of the horse, which is covered with a thick numdah [felt] to prevent galling. This saddle is very comfortable to the rider, being covered with a pad or cushion, which renders it next to impossible for the rider to be thrown. The pads of the Ameers are covered with velvet, or rich brocade, those of inferior persons with gaudy-coloured chintz, and beneath the saddle is generally a housing of scarlet, embroidered with bright yellow silk. The bridles are generally a simple headstall of leather, with a large, easy snaffle-bit, and the consequence is that a hard mouth is unknown in the country. Standing martingales are always used, as by the horsemen in India. The horses are generally very quiet, probably from being much handled and petted by their riders. Meer Ali Moorad has some brood mares, which exhibit blood, but are not of a build likely to produce powerful offspring. His Highness has also some fine mules, of good size and figure, but they are mostly used as baggage-animals,

and not for riding. The Meer's horses are not generally shod; indeed, shoes are almost unnecessary where stones are so rarely met with as in His Highness' territory. The asses of Sindh are even smaller than those of India, but the white ass of Khorassan is a very superior animal, and costs from 70 to 100 rupees.

Having made a Persian translation of the memorandum that I had prepared for Meer Ali Moorad, and of which he had approved, assuring me he would carry out the several changes therein mentioned, I mounted my new steed, and taking a carpet-bag, with writing materials and a few necessaries, cantered off to camp, which I found very near the place where His Highness had halted on the previous day. He had not, however, returned from hunting, and thus I had ample time to look about me. Nothing could be more unpretending than the tents of Meer Ali Moorad and his sons; the former was a very small two-poled tent, with barely room for his charpoy at one end, and it contained no other furniture. The only mark of superiority was a kanaut, or screen, forming an enclosure about it; his sons' tents were pitched here and there as fancy dictated, and

were even inferior to that of their father. A small single-poled tent was assigned to Mr I—— and myself, and we were informed that the Meer's servants would furnish all that we required. After some delay we obtained a couple of charpoys,* and having had a wash, awaited His Highness' arrival. The Meer had that morning enjoyed excellent sport, and was in proportionately good-humour in consequence. After breakfast I attended him in his *khilwut*, and submitted the memorandum that I had prepared. It was much to the following purpose in spirit: viz. that the Meer, when in England, had viewed the institutions of our country with admiration and wonder, and so soon as his means admitted would gladly introduce improvements in his own territory.

That His Highness felt peculiarly anxious for the advancement of his subjects in the matter of education, and intended to establish vernacular schools, similar to those which the commissioner had established throughout the province. His Highness had, indeed, authorized me to write to Major Goldsmid on the subject of masters and books, and I had done so.

* Bedsteads.

That the want of medical aid and medicines was sorely felt by the people of his country when fever prevailed, and that he proposed applying for the services of a native doctor from the Medical College of Bombay, with a view to establishing a dispensary for the gratuitous distribution of medicines to the sick poor of Khyrpoor.

That he was aware of the inconvenience that European travellers sustained in passing through his dominions, and proposed causing the erection of a bungalow at each stage.

That with a view to the improvement of his country, he had procured trees and seeds from Egypt and Bombay, and had commissioned some from Europe; besides inviting an indigo manufacturer from Madras for the purpose of improving the manufacture of indigo in Sindh, the people of which province do not understand the process, as practised in those districts of India where the best indigo is made.

All this the Meer subsequently assured me he had stated to the commissioner, who had expressed his satisfaction, and I believe that he did so.

CHAPTER VIII.

Hare chased by a Hawk—A Vocal Reveillé—Hunting Cavalcade—Afghan Greyhounds—Description of the Moharee, or Hunting-ground—A Battue—The Meer's Family—Official Misstatements—Meer Shah Nowaz Khan—Meer Jehan Mahomed—The Fat Boy of the Family—Matrimonial Arrangements—Ladies of the Meer's Family—Domestic Habits of the Zunana—The Toilette—Conversation of the Ladies—The Meer's Neglect of his Wives—Talpoor Dynasty—The Jungle—Hog-hunting—The Camp—Chief Commissioner's State Visit—Napier's Interview with Meer Ali Moorad—Noble Character of that General.

In the afternoon we went out again with the hawks, and had good sport, I for the first time seeing a hare chased by them. Poor pussy though had no chance. The kind of hawk flown was the Laghar, a fine long-winged hawk, which when slipped at the hare struck one claw into the fur of its back, and with the other grappling a tuft of grass soon brought the timid fugitive to a stand. In this chase there is some danger of the hawk being split up by the violence of the jerk when it clutches the grass to

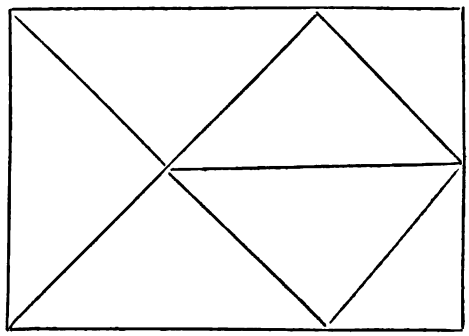
stop the hare.* The Meer and all his people were in ecstasies at the performance of the *laghar*, which was a young bird, and Beloochees cannot control their excitement at sight of such a chace; in fact, it is said that they "love hawking best of anything after thieving." As we returned to camp, the Meer assured me that I should see some good sport with the hog next morning. We accordingly went to bed early, directing our servant to awake us at the first peep of day; however, the cold was so severe that I was awake some time before any one was stirring in camp. The first intimation that I had of the approach of day was the chanting of a Faquir in the direction of the Meer's tent; presently an opposition performer joined in the vocal reveillé, which lasted for about a quarter of an hour. During this time I huddled on my clothes as fast as possible, for the morning was bitterly cold, aroused our servant Fyze Mahomed, and taking a draught of milk and a biscuit, sallied forth and went over to the Meer's tent. Outside the enclosure was seated a minstrel, strumming on a guitar with tinkling wire strings, whilst a damsel, with rather a musical

* Burton.

voice, was entertaining her sovereign with lyrics in his own praise. Within the enclosure we found a dozen or so of falconers, with the Meer's favourite hawks, his immediate personal attendants, besides the Meer-moonshee, or chief secretary, and the Mooktyar Kar; and as soon as His Highness' toilet was finished, which occupies some time, the order to mount was given. I was directed to lead the way, as my horse has a tendency to fighting with others, and the Meer is rather nervous on that point. An Afghan Jemadar, with about a dozen well-mounted Sowars, formed the Meer's body-guard. The Jemadar was one of the handsomest men I ever saw, and one of the finest riders. I cannot though speak favourably of the appearance of His Highness' mounted troops; in fact, with few exceptions, they are a rabble, very like what the Pindarries were of old, and like them in their habits too, — their miserable-looking horses possessing astonishing powers of endurance, and making marches of 50 or 60 miles without a halt. The hill Beloochees, who lived by plunder, were mounted on small mares of high blood, accustomed to long abstinence from water, and to subsist on scanty forage, and fed

at times on raw meat, which is known to impart strength to animals so fed. When compelled to fight, which they generally sought to avoid, the Beloochees dismounted, drew their swords, sharp as razors, and covering themselves with their shields, rushed upon the foe in the most determined manner, crouching as they ran, and thrusting their protruded shields in the faces of their assailants, at the same time covering their own heads with them, whilst their swords cut through everything. As soon as we were clear of the camp, a hundred wild horsemen spread out like skirmishers at full gallop to start the game. Very few of these men are Beloochees, as the Meer prefers foreigners to his own tribe as soldiers, and such was always his system when he had a considerable standing army. His troops are mostly Pathans from Bhawulpoor, or Rohillas from Mooltan, or perhaps Khorassanees, armed with sword and shield, and clothed in Chogas, or robes of coarse brown woollen cloth from Afghanistan. As the cavalcade proceeds, and a very picturesque cavalcade it is, from the variety of figures, prominent amongst which is the Meer himself, a magnificent specimen of Oriental royalty, with his four

sons, fine, handsome youths, in attendance on their father, followed by a hundred or so of horsemen, or camel-riders. As the cavalcade proceeds, I say, up flies a partridge, away goes a hawk and clutches it in a moment; or, perhaps, the dogs are slipped at some of the innumerable hares that start up under our feet. The dogs employed are generally large Afghan greyhounds, tolerably swift and abundantly savage. At length we reach the *Moharee*, or hunting-ground, and of this I must give a brief description. These *Moharees* are triangular portions of a jungle, enclosed and divided thus:—



The beaters, with fire-arms, tomtoms, or drums, horns, &c., are put into the Moharee at the wide end, beating the jungle towards the

apex of the triangle. The jungle is divided by strong thorn fences, impassable to wild animals, except at an opening left at the apex; and knowing this to be a road of escape, the animals make for it. Near these openings are small raised huts, strongly constructed, called *Koodnees*, or shooting-lodges. These huts are covered in, and afford complete shelter from the weather; and into them the sportsmen ascend by a ladder of four or five steps, to be out of reach of a wounded boar. In one of these the Meer placed himself, seated on a Zeenposh, or saddle-cloth, the horses being left at a short distance outside. On a signal being given a perfect army of beaters advanced towards us from the upper end of the Moharee, firing guns, beating tomtoms, and shouting, being accompanied by numerous dogs. After a short time movements in the long grass betokened the approach of some animal, and when our impatience was at boiling pitch, a couple of mangy-looking jackals sneaked past. All was then quiet for a time; but the clattering of hoofs is heard, the Meer cocks his rifle, and in another second three Paras, or Hog-deer—a buck and two does, make their appearance, trotting towards us; they stop for an instant to

listen when at a distance of about sixty yards; but that instant was fatal to the male, as a ball from the Meer's Purdey crushed through his brain. The does were allowed to escape, as the Meer rarely fires at females. The nearer the line of beaters approached, the more frequently did the game appear; and at about eleven a.m., the beaters having closed up, the Meer left off shooting. His Highness' bag was a very fair one, four Paras and about a dozen large hogs. Meer Ali Moorad is undoubtedly a splendid shot, but shooting of this kind requires no skill whatever, as the sportsman sits in perfect safety, and some of the animals are shot when standing, or moving so slowly that it is next to impossible for a good shot to miss one; sometimes indeed the Meer shoots hog with a long pistol, but occasionally I have seen him make splendid shots at deer when darting so rapidly between trees as to be scarcely visible. After the battue had terminated we returned, or rather proceeded onward, to the tents, which had been sent to a shady grove about four miles from Nauchee. On our way the Meer promised us some good sport with his boar-hounds in the evening, of which I shall presently give a description.

Neither bears nor monkeys are to be found in the Sindh jungles, at least in those where I have hunted, and the Khyrpooreans seemed surprised at the sight of a couple of show bears from Cashmere. These appeared to be the common bear of India, black, with a white gorget. The Indian bear, of which I have shot many, lives principally on roots, honey, wild fruits, and the comb found in the nests of white ants. These animals are not carnivorous, but if they get a man in their power they will suck at a limb till they have extracted all the blood and chewed it to the consistence of a sausage. Of this I once saw an instance in the case of the late Lieutenant Macleod of the 34th Madras Light Infantry, who had a young bear which one day took a fancy to his arm, and mauled him very severely before he could get free.

Bears are seldom to be met with in open ground where it is possible to spear them, as they are indifferent runners and very awkward in their gait, though they evince much activity in climbing. I once however saw a very large bear found in a sugar-cane field, which killed one of the beaters, and was making for the nearest jungle when brought to bay. Bruin

then stood upon his hind legs, and the horses were shy of approaching him; moreover he parried every spear most adroitly with his fore-paws. The celebrated Major Davies, then Commandant of His Highness the Nizam's Cavalry Division, known in India as Tiger Davies, was of the party, though, being on the opposite side of the sugar-cane, he was the last to come up. Seeing the manner in which the bear defied his assailants, he took off his hunting-cap with his left hand, shied it in Bruin's face, which occupied his attention, whilst, as he parried the cap, Davies' spear passed through his heart. Poor Davies, he was shortly afterwards killed in a mutiny of his men, who really loved him as a father, but were goaded into that mutiny by the tyranny of one of his own relatives. He was one of the bravest and best soldiers in the service, and celebrated for being one of the finest riders and swordsmen in India.

The Meer's party was now rather large, as several cousins and other relations by marriage had joined the camp. But I must give a brief sketch of the principal personages, and what I think of them. His Highness, Meer Ali Moorad Khan Bahader, the head of the Talpoor tribe

and Reis of Upper Sindh, had by his first wife two sons, the Meers Shah Nowaz Khan and Fyze Mahomed Khan, 25 and 23 years of age respectively, and three marriageable daughters by the same mother, a lady of rank of the Murree tribe of Beloochees. By a second marriage with a Kunchunnee, or dancing girl, whose sister he also subsequently married, His Highness has issue, Meer Jehan Mahomed, aged 18 years, and Meer Khan Mahomed, aged 16 years. Meer Ali Moorad has also a fourth wife. His mother is still living, and it is said shows the remains of considerable early beauty. The three elder sons are all married and have offspring. The families of Meer Shah Nowaz and Meer Fyze Mahomed reside at Dejee, as also their mother and grandmother; but the family of Meer Jehan Mahomed reside with his mother in the palace called the *Deyorie* at Khyrpoor. The young princes are rarely with their families, as the Meer insists on their presence in his constant hunting excursions. They have consequently *Camp establishments*, but for Orientals are by no means dissipated. In looking over the Sindh Blue Book I find some most unfounded statements [vide Forbes' Report, dated

25th November, 1847, vol. xlix. of 1854, page 367], especially as regards the Meer's eldest son, Meer Shah Nowaz Khan, who as a mere boy attracted the notice of Sir Charles Napier from his strong personal resemblance to the great Napoleon. Meer Shah Nowaz has an exceedingly handsome, intelligent face, and his abilities are good. He reads and writes English a little, and with practice would soon attain a competent colloquial knowledge of the language. He shows a strong desire for improvement, and wishes much to go to England for that purpose. This young Prince governed the country during his father's absence in England, much to the satisfaction of the people, with whom he is justly a favourite. His conduct was also highly approved by the Chief Commissioner, who made a very favourable report of his loyalty to the British Government on the occasion of the mutiny at Shikarpoor, and of his conduct generally during the late insurrection.

Meer Shah Nowaz was the youth who made so strong an impression on Sir Charles Napier, and whom His Excellency thus described: "The son of Meer Ali Moorad came to see me. The lad is a little fat fellow, as broad as he is long:

"the fat boy," but such a face and head—Napoleon's—a black Napoleon. He is full of intelligence, and will give us English trouble or help. His father is superior in character to the other Ameers, &c." It was evidently Sir Charles Napier's intention to have the succession to the Turban fixed on Meer Shah Nowaz, and it is to be hoped that the British authorities will look to this. As a matter of right the succession ought to come to this Prince, and he indeed is most worthy of it, of either of the four sons of Meer Ali Moorad; but if the matter be left to His Highness, he will of a surety select Meer Jehan Mahomed, a young man of the lowest origin by the mother's side, and who is moreover totally uneducated.

Forbes' Report above referred to is not incorrect in regard to Meer Shah Nowaz alone, for it contains the following statement, which I know from personal inquiry to have been unfounded:—

"But a few days back Meer Shere Mahomed, fourth son of the late Meer Roostum, appeared a supplicant for subsistence before the door, and is now living on the bounty of her who, in his father's life-time a low courtesan in Khyrpoor

bazaar, is now the favourite wife of His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, enjoying an income of nearly three lakhs a year."

Now I shall show how far this statement is correct: Meer Shere Mahomed from keeping evil company was reduced to great distress, and when in such state solicited aid from the younger sister of Meer Jehan Mahomed's mother, and she, having no children by His Highness Meer Ali Moorad, adopted Meer Shere Mahomed as a son. The assertion that this lady was "a low courtesan" is untrue; she was by *birth* a Kunchunnee, and her elder sister being married to the Meer, she resided with her until of an age to be herself married, when she became the third wife of His Highness.

The following paragraph from the above report to Government will serve as a specimen of its style and composition.

"His father is anxious to obtain for him the daughter of his nephew, Meer Moobaruk, *deceased, but her father,* notwithstanding the advantages likely to result to himself from such an alliance, will not give his consent to it."

This is probably the first instance upon offi-

cial record of a prince, *after his own decease*, refusing his consent to a daughter's marriage!

During the time that I was secretary to Meer Ali Moorad I had peculiar opportunities of observing the conduct of his sons, and was led to form a very high opinion of Meer Shah Nowaz, who only wants opportunity to become a superior person.

The Meer's second son, by the same mother, Meer Fyze Mahomed Khan, is a very kind-hearted young man, but of inferior ability to his elder brother, and the people about him say that he is too fond of money. His health was not good when in England, which caused his return to Sindh some months before his father; and although about eight months in England he made no progress in our language, but writes Persian pretty well. Meer Fyze Mahomed is, I believe, a well-meaning young man, and is very particular in his religious exercises. Sir Charles Napier formed a favourable opinion of Meer Fyze Mahomed, whom he speaks of as having a stern look, but full of fire and sarcasm.

Meer Jehan Mahomed Khan is very good-looking, and evidently the favourite with his

father, but his education has been lamentably neglected, and he writes Persian indifferently.

Meer Khan Mahomed, the "fat boy" of the family, is even more ignorant than his brother Meer Jehan Mahomed. These young men are by the Meer's second wife, and their manners are not in a degree more polished than those of the falconers, their ordinary companions, as they never associate with the two elder brothers, who appear to look down upon them on account of the lowness of their mother's origin.

The three sisters of Meers Shah Nowaz and Fyze Mahomed are, I was told, rather good-looking; the European woman who was married to a Mahomedan in the Meer's service, Mrs Gholaum Husseyn, was my informant, and she saw a good deal of the ladies, having resided with them for several weeks at a time in the Zunana. They are rather old for unmarried Indian ladies, the eldest being above twenty-two years of age; she describes them as extremely kind and good-natured, as are also all the elder ladies. The only thing she objected to was their having her little daughter's nose bored, and a large nose-ring fixed therein, during the time she was on a visit with them. They also

changed the child's name from Eliza to Murryam, and wished to have her married to a Moosulmaun.

It is said that Meer Ali Buksh, a son of Meer Roostum, is to marry one of these ladies, and two cousins of another branch are to have the others, but the present impoverished state of the Khyrpoor treasury is a bar to the arrangement. I liked what I saw of these Meers, who seem to be much respected by all about the durbar; and these marriages are desirable as tending to cement the interests of the several branches of the Talpoor family. Meer Ali Moorad had another son, Meer Sohrab Khan, but he died young.

Meer Mahomed Khan, son of Meer Gholaum Hyder, married a daughter of Meer Roostum. He is a great miser, and is known as Mahomed Khan Kookuree, from living entirely on fowls, one of which he makes last for two days. Kookur is Sindhi for a fowl. The sons of this Meer are fine young men, and appear to be on very friendly terms with all the members of the reigning branch of the family.

Mrs Gholaum Husseyn, having been a visitor for weeks together in the Zunanas, had an op-

portunity of observing the domestic habits of their inmates that probably no other European ever possessed, and her description of the ladies of the Meer's family is on the whole favourable. His Highness' mother still shows the remains of early beauty, as does the mother of Meer Shah Nowaz, whose wife, and the wives of Meer Fyze Mahomed, are also good-looking. The Meer's youngest wife, whom he has never seen since the day after his marriage, having, it is said, taken an aversion to her, is described as a very beautiful young woman. The mother of the two younger princes, as I before said, is a dame of vast proportions, but with a jolly, good-humoured countenance. She seldom leaves her residence, perhaps from the impossibility of finding a camel equal to her enormous weight, with that of a counterbalancing burden on the opposite side. The sisters of Meer Shah Nowaz are said to be rather comely damsels, the youngest of them being now about fifteen, the other two a few years older. When at Khyrpoor, the young ladies were occasionally observed peeping, or perchance the maidens thus seen may have been slave girls, but distance lent its aid to our imaginations, and we beguiled

ourselves into the belief of being the admired of princesses. Mrs Gholaum describes the life led by these ladies as very monotonous; nevertheless their time did not seem to hang heavy on their hands, and the daily routine was somewhat in this wise. They rose with the lark, or rather, I should say, with the first twitter of the paroquets, whose brilliant plumage flashed in the sunbeams as they fluttered around the housetops of a morning. After performing their matutinal ablutions and saying their prayers, the ladies read the Koran, or some other religious book, whilst breakfast was in course of preparation. They then played puchees, a game greatly admired by all classes in the East; and after their morning meal, which consisted of savoury and sweet pillaos, roasted partridges, kabobs of the Kotapacha, a very delicate description of venison, and other good things, to which the royal ladies did ample justice, smoking was resorted to. They then walked in the garden, under some fine shady trees, looked after the household affairs, and issued supplies for the day, or rather overlooked such issue. These duties being fulfilled, puchees was again played, the hookah being constantly smoked by

them. At about eleven A. M. the ladies reclined on their charpoys; a slave girl fanned each of them, another rubbed and patted the soles of their feet to promote slumber, and they were soon in the land of dreams, their attendants following the example. About two o'clock in the afternoon they arose, bathed, and commenced their toilettes. This process was a very elaborate one, and occupied fully three hours, as the ladies of the East are quite as fond of dress and ornaments as their sisters of the West. Their hair was combed and braided by their handmaids, who appeared to take great delight in the task. The combs were of sandal wood, and queer-looking combs they are, but still they answer the purpose very well. The oil used for their hair is that extracted from mustard seed, the rank odour of which is in some measure, though not altogether, counteracted by some strong perfume, with which it is scented for toilet purposes. Attar of roses is, perhaps, too delicate a perfume for Beloochee noses, as my informant never saw any at Khyrpoor, but sandal wood oil was in great request. Musk is also much prized, as is rose water, essence of jasmyn, and orange flowers. The

ladies are partial too to the odoriferous gums which are occasionally burnt in their dwellings. Amongst their toilet requisites is a sweet-smelling wash for the hands, called *owpteneh*, extracted from lemon blossoms, lemon peel, sandal wood, civet, and frankincense, prepared in rose water, but this is rarely used. Large quantities of conserve of roses are prepared in every family, and the ladies consider it a sovereign remedy for all trifling ills. The Meer's wives are said to possess fine jewels, and are very fond of wearing them when visiting, or receiving their female relations. The ear-rings, nose-rings, and neck-ornaments are precisely similar to those worn by Egyptian ladies, as I ascertained by comparing them with the engravings in Lane's Egypt. The *Nhut*, or nose-rings, are often of great size, and so ponderous as to require support, for which purpose a lock of hair from the forehead is brought down and passed through the ring, to relieve the nasal cartilage of the weight. The noses of the princesses were, says my informant, only bored at the side, and not in the centre, as with women of inferior rank; some of the nose-rings are very handsome ornaments, richly set with precious stones, but they must be

extremely inconvenient at meals, as furnishing occupation for one hand, in holding the ring up from the mouth to allow their food to enter.

Women in Sindh, as in India, are very partial to bracelets, and those of the higher classes in Sindh generally have them of ivory, but it is a notorious fact that no elephant ever produced a tusk capable of forming a bracelet for the Meer's second wife, who in consequence has them made of silver.

My informant states that the dress of the princesses is precisely similar to that of the common people, but of finer and richer materials. It consists of a loose *pyran*, or chemise, of fine muslin, edged round the neck with narrow lace. *Sootane*, or trowsers of enormous width, made of a very rich description of silk, or silk and cotton. A *dooputta** of the finest muslin completes the dress, and in the cold season shawls from Cashmere and Mooltan are worn. When the ladies have finished their toilettes, a short time before sunset, they generally go out to visit their relations, or receive them at home. In the former case they closely veil their charms, and are carried in *muhauffas*,

* A scarf of fine muslin.

a kind of open palanquin with curtains. At sun-set the evening prayer is recited, wherever the princesses may happen to be. About an hour after sunset they take their evening meal, after which they converse, smoke, and listen to singing till it is time to retire for the night. In conversation they appeared sensible, though, of course, their ideas were very limited, and they never tired of asking Mrs Gholaum questions about England and the religion of its people, on which subject they seem to have had some rather warm discussions together. They complained bitterly of the Meer's neglect of his wives, who, on his return from England, received little or nothing in the way of presents, whilst the Ali Sirkars, his mistresses, got musical boxes without end, and many other highly-prized gifts. His Highness' want of consideration for his elder wife was also brought up as a bitter grievance; she, a Murree lady of high birth, and her daughters, being reduced to great distress for want of means, whilst the inferior wives, who were women of the lowest origin, were in affluent circumstances. Her Highness' establishment was numerous, in the aggregrate fully a hundred persons, those of the masculine

gender never entering her place of residence, but occupying a portion of the building apart. One or two of the principal attendants only being allowed the entrée when business required it, on which occasions Her Highness was veiled. Meer Ali Moorad took out with him numerous musical boxes and stereoscopes for the ladies of the Zunana, with which they were greatly delighted at first, but soon tired of their playthings and destroyed them.

The Talpoor dynasty dates only from 1783. On the expulsion of the Kulloras, the country was divided among the leaders. Meer Futteh Ali and his three brothers reigned jointly at Hyderabad. Meer Sohrab, from whom the Khyrpoor family sprung, got that place and its dependencies, and Meer Tara, grandfather of Shere Mahomed, got Meerpoor, to the eastward of Hyderabad. Minor chiefs, who had been engaged in the war, were quartered with their followers in different parts of the country, each having charge of the district about him, which was called his "Derdaree," after Dera, his head-quarters. In India we apply this word to a tent, but not so in Sindh, as it is invariably applied to a permanent dwelling.

The Mjamanee tribe is the most influential in Sindh after the Talpoors.

At about three in the afternoon we were again in our saddles, flying the hawks as we advanced in the same order as the morning. On approaching the river we observed a long belt of jungle, from which sloped a fine plain towards where we stood, and on the opposite slope, at the distance of a mile, another jungle. The Meer warned me to keep out of the way of the hogs, as they crossed with the dogs after them. We had no sooner taken our post than fire was set to the jungle along the river bank, and the hogs, soon finding their quarters too hot to hold them, began to bolt and scour across the plain towards the other jungle, with the dogs in pursuit. We had a capital view of the chase, and some of the runs were good; but all the hogs escaped, except two or three, which the dogs brought to bay and killed, and none of those were boars, which are rarely killed by hounds without the aid of spear or rifle. As it was, two or three dogs were ripped up, and a Belooch got a severe *purl*, but without much personal injury. The hounds used were large and very savage

greyhounds of the Khorassan breed. In returning to camp Meer Fyze Mahomed's horse came down and rolled over him, whereby he was severely bruised, but providentially no bones were broken. Thus ended my first day's hunting in Sindh, which, to my thinking, was very poor sport, after my long apprenticeship in the tiger jungles of the Deckkun and Berar, and the noble hog-hunting in the Nagpore country. I suggested to the Meer that it would be well to procure some hog spears and ride the hogs as they crossed the plain; but he did not seem to approve the suggestion, as the exercise is too violent to suit the habits of most eastern princes, who consult their ease as far as possible in all ways.

The wild hogs of Sindh are hardly, I think, so large, though far more fierce, than those of India, for it is no uncommom thing for a boar to turn and attack his pursuers, and I heard at Khyrpoor of the Dawk *Sowar*, or Postman, being stopped by a wild boar, which pursued him at full speed to the station for changing horses. A boar, when in wind, will sometimes run three miles at a pace that will keep a good Arab at his best. A hog should always be forced to his

speed at the outset, and kept at it till he is speared. At the moment of attack the horse should be well in hand. The spear should be directed just behind the shoulder, and about six inches below the back-bone, for that is the road to the heart. If a hog be touched in the spine too, he drops instantly. When a boar charges he always raises his fore-quarters, and sometimes even rises on his hind legs. A boar rips with his tusks, a sow bites. The former cuts alternately to the right and left with a rapid movement, seeming to wriggle his nose against the object of attack. I remember Lieutenant Messiter, of the Madras 22nd Regiment, getting a very ugly bite from a sow, which thus resented his attack upon her offspring in the Hinginghaut Bheer, a celebrated hunting spot in the Nagpore country.

On reaching the Meer's camp, we found it pitched on the high bank overhanging the Indus at Nauchee, rather a picturesque situation, with several large Landees, or temporary sheds, formed of the reed which grows in such abundance in the valley of the Indus, and thatched over.

Preparations had been made for receiving a

visit of ceremony from the Chief Commissioner, who was expected immediately at Sukkur. A flight of steps had been cut down the bank to the water's edge, and a party of the Meer's Golundauze, with two guns, had been brought out from Khyrpoor, to fire a salute in honour of the Commissioner's arrival; however His Highness had to exercise his patience, as several days elapsed before he made his appearance.

The Meer's large Durbar tent, and several others, were pitched for the expected interview, and the State Charpoy, with silver legs, was brought out for the occasion. Hote Singh, who acted as Master of the Ceremonies, had also got out a table, with chairs, and other requisites for an entertainment, whereat champagne abounded; and though many ordinary essentials to European comfort were forgotten, all passed off very well. The Commissioner, when he did come, was most gracious, and but little time was lost in the empty ceremonies of the Durbar. The salute due to his rank was fired on his arrival, and after breakfast the Commissioner retired to write letters, whilst the Meer and his other guests went out shooting. Towards the decline of day the Commissioner and his suite re-em-

barked under a salute, and returned to his camp at Sukkur. Thus ended the visit to which His Highness Meer Ali Moorad had looked forward with so much impatience.

This was the spot where the great Napier had an interview with Meer Ali Moorad on the 23rd November, 1842, an interview honourable alike to both parties. The Meer's ill-wishers had endeavoured to impress on Sir Charles that His Highness' intentions towards him were treacherous. This the General treated with disdain, and, to show his perfect confidence in that Prince, he crossed from Sukkur to Nauchee, without the smallest escort, accompanied only by four staff officers. Meer Ali Moorad received him with all possible honours; His Highness was quite aware of the reports that had been made to his own disadvantage, and in consequence the more highly appreciated that great-heartedness which his noble visitor showed. To this hour the Meer speaks in the most enthusiastic terms of him whom he styles the "Burra Naupier," and declares him to have been, not only the greatest of captains, but the most high-minded and straightforward of men.

Never man indeed possessed a more liberal

heart than Sir Charles Napier, though so secretly were his bounties bestowed that scarcely did his left hand know what his right hand gave. Of this a noble instance came to my knowledge a few years ago. Sir Charles Napier, when Commander-in-Chief in India, had confirmed the sentence of a Court Martial on a young officer of Her Majesty's 53rd Foot. He was the son of a widow who had experienced great reverses. This lady, in her distress at learning that such sentence had been fatal to her son's commission, wrote a most affecting letter to His Excellency, stating that her son had from his scanty pay contributed to her own support, that he was the most affectionate and devoted of sons, and that his dismissal would entail ruin on the whole family; she therefore entreated Sir Charles to exercise clemency, but ere her letter reached the Commander-in-Chief the confirmed proceedings of the Court Martial had been forwarded to England. By return of post, however, that unhappy lady received a reply from Sir Charles, expressing his deep sympathy in her case, and requesting her acceptance of the draft which he enclosed for the price of her son's commission. Silence was enjoined, and

the lady maintained silence until the death of her generous benefactor, when, in the overflowing of her grateful heart, she made known to myself this noble act of liberality.

CHAPTER IX.

Nauchee—Love of Hunting an Impediment to the Improvement of the Country—Baneful Influence of the Mooktyar Kar—The Jungles—Sindh Forests—The Euphrates Poplar and the Babul—Value of the Forests—Government Demand for the Timber—Difficulty of Conveyance—Extensive Gardens—Roses of Khyrpoor—Rose Water—Luxuriance of Grasses and Reeds—The Kana—Effect of Trees on the Climate—Moon's Influence on the Sap of Trees—Temperature of Sindh—Fruits—Productions—Indigo—Cotton—Tobacco—Preparation of Leather in Sindh—Babul Bark—Opium—Sugar Cane—Saltpetre—Sulphur—Alum Mines—Pearl Banks and Pearl Fishery—Salt Beds—Agriculture—Mode of Paying Labourers—Richness of Crops—Peshawur Rice—Oil Seeds—Flax and Linseed—Paper Manufacture—Hemp Dyes.

THE situation of Nauchee is exceedingly pretty; fine shady gardens extend nearly all the way to Roree, about four miles to the north, and immediately opposite, in the centre of the river, is a long island of considerable extent, which the Meer informed me was his best shooting ground; it also contains a large quantity of very fine cultivated land, but jungle predominates in the proportion of ten parts to one, as the love of hunting supersedes all con-

siderations with a Beloochee, who never considers the loss of income which the appropriation of great tracts of land for the purposes of breeding game involves. This was carried to such an extent during the Government of the Ameers, that it was calculated that every head of deer killed must have cost 800 rupees; and this is said to be no exaggeration, as some of the richest land in Sindh was sacrificed in the formation of Shikargahs, and such continues to be the case in His Highness Meer Ali Moorad's territory. Indeed I was assured by Hindoos and Moosulmauns alike that his territory might be doubled in value by judicious management; but all agreed on one point, namely, that the first step to improvement must be the removal of his present Mooktyar Kar, or minister, not only from that office, but also from the Meer's territory, where he exercises a baneful degree of influence, though detested by the people at large, which I shall hereafter notice.

The Meer's jungles contain few trees of very considerable size, and I believe this applies to the jungles of Sindh generally. It is rare too to meet with tolerably straight timber; hence, I dare say, has arisen the use of arches to an

extent nowhere else to be found, and, strange to say, their arches are said to be constructed without key-stones.

Accustomed to the jungles of India, of which the leaves are never shed, I was surprised on arriving in Sindh in December to find a large portion of the trees denuded of their foliage. The babul, basser, tali, peepul, bubbur, or Acacia Arabica, and the tamarisk of three kinds, are the trees most commonly met with in the Sindh forests. In the Upper Sindh forests the Euphrates poplar is the staple tree; but I shall here lay before my readers the following extract from Mr N. A. Dalzel's Report to Government on the Sindh Forests, for the year ending the 30th April, 1859, or rather for some portions of that year, as follows:—

"There are 74 forests under the management of the Forest Ranger in Sindh, including an area of about 1,300,000 acres. In the Upper Sindh forests the Euphrates poplar, a tree resembling the willow both in the quality of its timber and its habit of growth, is the staple tree; babul is scarce. One-half of these forests consist of this tree, the other half being tamarisk and gigantic grasses. In the Lower Sindh

forests poplar is rare, babul being the staple tree, covering about one-half of their area, one-quarter being tamarisk and kundee, and the remaining consisting partly of the same tall grasses, or of waste lands out of reach of the floods, and covered with a scrub of salvadora or khubber, kirror or leafless caper, and the calatropis or ak plant. The babul, in favourable circumstances, grows to eight or nine feet in circumference, which may be called the maximum of its development; but, when left to nature, it seems to be a gregarious kind of tree, generally growing in long, narrow belts, and huddled close together in a manner most unfavourable to rapid and continuous growth, and forming such a dense shade underneath as to preclude the growth of any herbage. The poplar trees, on the contrary, are never to be seen crowded together in this manner; they are well scattered throughout the forests, and do not require from art any assistance to their full development.

"I need scarcely say that the babul produces excellent timber; it is procurable of large dimensions, and is adapted for all kinds of work requiring strength and solidity, is now

used extensively in the dockyard at Kotree, the Government arsenals, and public works generally, and its value is daily becoming more recognized, to judge from the increased demand [1802 logs being sold in 1858-59, against 1237 in 1857-58]. This demand, however, is chiefly confined at present to public departments; the inhabitants of the country generally do not purchase much. This does not seem to be owing to its original cost, which is very low indeed [six annas per cubic foot], but to the fact that the natives make very little use of large timber of any kind, and the little they do require for timber purposes is generally procurable near their own houses. Small babul rafters, however, are in great demand by the natives for constructing the framework of their houses; as, however, only the thinnings of the forests are now available, the demand exceeds the supply. In 1857-58 there were sold 22,453 rafters, and in 1858-9, 27,254. There is no doubt, however, that the natives are very much discouraged from purchasing timber, owing to the great difficulties and expense of conveyance; for although they have the advantage of water carriage, this is at present so very expensive a

means of conveyance as to amount almost to a prohibition, at least as far as this department is concerned. The result is that the timber lying in forests at a great distance from a market is almost valueless. The baha, or poplar tree, does not attain to a great size, and is naturally a crooked tree; the wood is light and tough, and well adapted for paneling and such-like work; it is purchased in considerable quantities by the natives; in 1858-59 there were sold of this tree 3966 logs. It is principally the young shoots, however, for which there is the greatest demand under the name of rafter; no less than 150,000 of these having been sold during the past year, against 10,708 in 1857-58. These are preferred to babul in the construction of houses, as being less liable to be attacked by the dry rot, or by worms, than young Cutcha babul. The great advantage possessed by the poplar tree is that it may be cut down to the root, and yet not be destroyed; it will send forth several shoots in the following year, which in a very short time furnish a fresh crop of rafter, in the same manner as the osier beds of England. I may add that the supply of both babul and baha timber, at the present rate of

demand, is almost inexhaustible; when, however, large babul comes into use as fuel, this statement will require modification."

The forests in the Government districts are admirably looked after by the active officer at the head of the department and his two assistants; but those in the territory of His Highness Meer Ali Moorad are utterly neglected, as only valued by him for the game that they produce. The consequence is that vast tracts of the most productive land that he possesses do not bring in one rupee of revenue, whilst the income arising from the forests under Government management amounts to upwards of sixty thousand rupees per annum, and is steadily increasing. This revenue is derived from the sale of timber, firewood, charcoal, bark, reeds, gum, honey, &c., and the collection of grazing fees. The number of cattle grazing in the Government forests, according to a recent report, amounted to 98,000. At present the forest land, taking beegah for beegah, pays more than land under cultivation; but of course it will only do this up to a certain quantity.

The Sindh forests are not only valuable for supplying timber and fuel for the steamers,

but are of great importance in preventing the sand left in the bed of the river, when the inundation subsides, from drifting over the country, and ruining many fertile districts now under cultivation. The sand is in many places heaped up against the outside trees to a height of 20 or 30 feet, and extends from two to three hundred yards in width. This does not appear to injure the babul trees at all, and the trees form a perfect barrier, preventing the sand blowing inland. Such is particularly the case about a mile below Jerruck, where a portion of the bed of the river, about seven miles in length, and from one to three in breadth, is dry for two-thirds of the year. This is composed entirely of fine sand, and were it not that the Veran forest lies between this bed of sand and the cultivated land, the entire fertile tract between Shaikh Taroo and Jerruck would be destroyed by its drifting.

In the Appendix marked D will be found a list of the timber and fruit trees and bushes in Sindh, taken from the late Dr Stock's account of them.

The babul is the common forest tree below Sehwan. The babul and bahn abound be-

tween Sehwan and Sukkur, above which the bahn and tuli are most common. The babul is of very quick growth and extremely tough, as appears by the result of experiments in the naval yard at Kotree, where the best teak broke with a strain of 3cwt. only, whilst babul did not break till a strain of 3cwt 3qrs., was applied. When the babul is seasoned white ants rarely attack it; it is a heavy wood, and will only float when it is well seasoned, thus its weight precludes its being floated down the river. It is much used in the Indus flotilla for steamer's tillers, main-pieces for rudders, paddle floats, boat knees, stanchions, &c., also for beams in buildings; it is used in the arsenal for naves of wheels, felloes, &c., and for any work where particular strength is required. The seed pods are used for fattening cattle, and the bark for tanning; gum and lac are also collected from it, and it is the best wood for fuel for steamers and other purposes; camels and goats are very fond of the leaves. In good soil, well watered, the babul grows from 25 to 30 feet high, and two feet six inches in circumference in four years, and if pruned it grows straight.

The bahn is a light tough wood, but inferior in strength to teak; it is much used in building, but liable to the ravages of the white ants until seasoned.

The tali is a very superior wood; white ants do not meddle with it even when green. It is a very straight-growing timber tree, but of little use under 30 years' growth. Large plantations of this tree are being made in the forests of Lower Sindh.

The kundi is much used for household furniture, and sheep and goats feed upon the leaves.

The leafless caper-bush is much used for the knees of the Sindh flat-bottomed boats.

The acacia and tamarind abound in northern Sindh; there are also the peepul, the bir, and the date-palm, of which the fruit is greatly esteemed, and much of it is dried and stored for consumption, but is very inferior to the dates of Egypt and Arabia.

The Meer's family have some extensive gardens about Khyrpoor, but, like everything pertaining to His Highness, they are ill cared for. Mangoes are very plentiful, but generally of an inferior kind, as the art of grafting seems unknown there. Pomegranates are plentiful, but

poor in quality. At Shikarpoor the gardens are very fine, as the wealthy natives vie with each other in their fruit and flower-gardens, and Meer Ali Moorad used occasionally to receive a supply from his agent there. At Roree too the gardens are very good, and principally supply both Sukkur and Khyrpoor. The melons brought there for sale are the best I ever saw in India, being of those fine kinds for which Kandahar and Cabool have ever been celebrated. The peaches, apples, and figs grown about Khyrpoor are rubbish, but the mulberries are tolerably good. The roses of Khyrpoor are particularly plentiful, and in my opinion far more fragrant than those of Europe, though a late distinguished author declares that "they have no fragrance." Vast quantities of rose-water and conserve of roses are made in Sindh, the latter being seemingly considered a sovereign remedy for many complaints.

The luxuriance of the grasses and reeds in Sindh, and especially near the Indus, surpasses anything I ever saw elsewhere. The reed known as Kana grows to an immense height, is knotted like the bamboo, and has a beautiful feathery head. This reed is invaluable to the

Sindhians for huts, mats, baskets, chairs, &c. It grows in large tufts, and vast tracts are covered with it between Khyrpoor and the river.

The effect that trees have on the climate of every country is a matter known to all; thus it is to be supposed that the extension of the forests would tend to ameliorate the exceedingly dry climate of Sindh. The dew falls copiously where trees abound; it drops off their leaves as though there had just been a heavy shower; but a thousand yards outside the line of trees, where the soil is just as good, but no grass growing, it will be as dry as it was the day before at noon. The dew falls also heavily on the low tamarisk bushes scattered over the country, but the dew which falls from that bush is exceedingly salt and bitter; thus its fertilizing properties are lost.

The natives of India believe, and my own experience convinces me of the fact, that the moon exercises a strong influence on trees; and as they think that if they cut down a tree when the moon is on the increase the sap will be up, they wait for the decrease of the planet, because it is well known to all practical engineers in India, that wood, if cut while the

moon is in the increase, will be full of worm, whilst that cut in its decrease will be quite free. In Sindh I was assured that the like opinion prevails.

The late Dr Stock, in his able report to Government on the Plants and Articles of Cultivation suitable to the climate of Sindh, observes that "Sindh is an extra-tropical country, the average temperature of whose summer months rises to 95° Fahr., and whose winter months have an average temperature of 60°. The highest temperature of the hottest days in summer frequently rises to 110°, less frequently to 120°.* The lowest temperature of the night in winter is a few degrees below freezing, and what is more important with regard to vegetation, the temperature of a winter day [average] ranges between 80° and 40°.

"Many places have occasionally as high a temperature, but none such a continuance of hot weather [owing to the deficiency of rain], whence arises the high summer average. The winter of Algiers, with an average summer higher than any recorded.

* I have repeatedly seen the thermometer at 140° and upwards in July.

"The above remarks do not apply to Kurrachee, whose temperature is kept more uniform by the sea, and whose meteorology [though extremely interesting in a medical and sanatory point of view] is not valuable in connection with cultivation on a large scale. They apply to Sindh, from Hyderabad to Shikarpoor, including the fertile districts of Larkhana and Sehwan, and those parts which are supplied with water from the Indus and its branches.

2. "Which is almost out of the range of the Monsoon.
3. "Whose overflowing river makes up, to a certain extent, for the deficiency of rain above noted.
4. "Whose soil is plastic clay, most strongly impregnated with salt, quickly covered with the fertile warp of a river remarkably charged with fertilizing matter, when [naturally or by canals] it is brought within its influence, and as quickly reduced to a barren sand, when the river is diverted, or never brought near it. In many parts also are rocky formations, chiefly of carbonate of lime.
5. "Where the date tree from the equator

northward first ripens, and brings its fruit to perfection in any quantity.

6. "Where the apple begins to produce eatable fruit with little attention,—a transition from the difficulty of obtaining that fruit in India, to the ease and perfection with which it is cultivated in Khorassan.
7. "Where that remarkable family of plants, the balsam trees, first begins, from the equator northwards, to yield a copious supply of gum resin, useful in the arts and in medicine.
8. "Where the pomegranate is capable of bearing a fine and delicious fruit.
9. "And yet the mango does not fall off in excellence.
10. "Where in the heat of summer tropical grains and fruits are cultivated, while in the cold and bracing winter extra-tropical and European grains, pulse, and vegetables, may be grown with no perceptible deterioration.
11. "Where the indigenous vegetation is one-third Arabian and Egyptian and two-thirds Indian."

The above extracts are from the report of a very able officer, but I confess that his opinion

of some of the fruits of Sindh is far more favourable than my own; for example, though the date is grown in vast quantities in Sindh, it is of a very inferior kind as compared with the dates of Bussorah and Arabia. The apple too of Sindh is a very inferior fruit. The pomegranate is not to be compared with that of Egypt. The mango is abundant enough, it is true, but the very best from Meer Ali Moorad's gardens are far inferior to the mangoes of Bombay, as grafting is unknown to the native gardeners of Sindh.

His Highness Meer Ali Moorad brought round many varieties of fruit trees from Bombay, which were planted in his very fine garden at Dejee; but the gardener whom he procured from the Horticultural Society, and who cost him a good deal of money in coming to Khyrpoor, could not be prevailed on to remain, and after he departed the imported trees very soon perished.

Dr Stock considered that the following articles, and other vegetable productions, might be advantageously cultivated in Sindh, from similarity of climate and soil:—

Aloes. This plant grows wild in

	Sindh, and good aloes are made from it. Climate similar to that of Socotra.
Dragon's Blood tree.	Climate and affinity to Socotra, where it grows wild.
Flax.	Climate very suitable to this plant.
Egyptian cotton.	Similarity in soil and climate. Cotton thrives well in Meer Ali Moorad's territory; in fact, it does so in all parts of Sindh, and is susceptible of great improvement in its cultivation, as at present no attention is paid thereto. Sindh cotton is of two kinds, but that most generally cultivated is a perennial plant, the roots being left in the ground after the first crop. This saves trouble

and expense, and these are primary considerations with a Sindhi cultivator. The season for sowing is April, and the crop is ready in August. No cotton is exported from the Meer's territory; though the proximity of the Indus, and the inland water-carriage afforded by the Meerwa, render it easy to convey any quantity to Kotree at moderate cost. The cotton grown about Khyrpoor is used alone for home consumption; and weaving is carried on, but without any appearance of activity, in most of the villages, and the cloth manufactured is generally of a very coarse description.

Egyptian wheat	Is very superior to the ordinary wheat of the country, and the Meer commissioned some seed wheat from Alexandria while I was with him.
Olive.	The olive grows wild on the hills of Beloochistan, and would probably flourish in Sindh from similarity of soil and climate with Syria and Egypt, where it is extensively cultivated.
Carob tree.	This grows admirably, says Dr Stock, in the driest parts of Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, and is one of the most important productions of these countries. It yields food to man and fodder to beasts, with but little attention in the most barren situations. Dr Stock considers that this

tree would thrive well in Sindh, and that whole forests of it should be planted.

Myrrh, frankincense, asafœtida, tragacanth, mastich, and other gums.

Dr Stock observes that the climate of Sindh (and especially of the higher parts of it) seems particularly suited to the development of the odoriferous and fetid gum resins, which require a certain amount of cold. Three kinds of asafœtida and a kind of mastich are found in the hills of Beloochistan, and the tamarisk yields manna all over Sindh.

Indigo.

The soil and climate of Sindh are peculiarly adapted to the production of Indigo, as the absence of rain and facility for artificial irri-

gation enable the cultivator to supply his crop at the proper moment with the necessary quantity of water and no more, which is a grand desideratum in Indigo planting. It has too been successfully cultivated in Upper Sindh, the quality of that produced being good, but the ignorance of the Sindh manufacturer spoils the article, which consequently never realizes a fair price, as the cakes are invariably broken from irregularity in their form. I have seen Indigo of excellent quality grown in Meer Ali Moorad's country, and endeavoured to procure a man thoroughly versed in the process of

its manufacture, as practised in the Cuddapah district, to emigrate to Khyrpoor in the service of His Highness, but the distance was too great to allow of any one being open to the temptation offered. Otherwise I have no doubt that the speculation would have answered. Indigo is in great demand in Sindh, but chiefly for home consumption. In 1840 the quantity of Indigo grown in the Khyrpoor territory was about 900 maunds, or 72,000 pounds, but I have no means of ascertaining the quantity produced at present.

Bdellium.

The Bdellium of Genesis is known in Sindh

as *guggur*. It is a shrub that yields the googal gum resin sold in England as East Indian myrrh.

Shiraz and Latakia tobacco. These fine kinds of tobacco, says Dr Stock, would certainly succeed admirably in the congenial climate of Sindh, which country produces much tobacco, but the rude mode of sweating spoils the article. The tobacco at present grown in Sindh is generally of the most indifferent quality; but quality is very little looked for either by the prince or peasant, tho' smoking is the principal feature in a Sindhian's existence. Persian tobacco is certainly preferred when it is attainable, but the wealthy

can alone enjoy a luxury so expensive.

The artificial grasses of England.

The artificial grasses of England, especially lucern, grow well in Sindh in the cold season. The Meer had a great deal of it in his garden of Dejee before my arrival, and I procured him a large quantity of seed from Messrs Gibbs and Co. of Half Moon street, Piccadilly.

Madder.

Madder, or *munjeet garancin*, is cultivated largely in Mooltan and the Punjaub, and might be advantageously introduced into Sindh.

During my residence at Khyrpoor I occupied myself a good deal in making inquiries regarding tanning-barks, which are peculiarly good in Sindh, the people of that country having, indeed, been long celebrated for their preparation of leather. Larkhana is especially famous for

this article, which is an important branch of export trade for belts, boots, &c. The leather of the hog-deer, or kota-pacha, is the most valuable, but all kinds of leather prepared with the bark of the babul are fully equal, if not superior, to the leather of Europe. Any quantity of babul bark is procurable at Khyrpoor, indeed anywhere along the banks of the Indus. A profitable speculation might be made by Treacher and Co., or some other chemist, by preparing extract of this bark for exportation to England, where a substitute for oak bark is much required, the supply being unequal to the demand for tanning purposes. The extract must, however, be made in earthen vessels, as iron utensils cause the extract to discolour the leather and render it brittle. Both babul and mangrove barks are much used by the tanners of Sindh; but the barks themselves could not be exported with profit by reason of their bulk. One especial advantage in employing the mangrove extract is, that it takes effect on the leather in half the time of oak bark. These tanning barks are now, in a great degree, wasted, which would thus be turned to excellent

account, and it is to be hoped will be brought into use at no distant period.

Opium was used in large quantities before our taking possession of Sindh, but the increased expense of the drug has since contributed to lessen the consumption. The opium produced in Upper Sindh, about Shikarpoor, Larkhana, and further north, has always been considered of a very superior description. The opium-eaters of Sindh are said, however, to prefer the drug produced in Jeysulmeer to that of home growth, and most of what is consumed comes direct from that state.

Sugar cane grows to a large size in the rich lands bordering on the Indus, but the sugar derived from it is of the coarsest description. This crop is precarious, as it is attacked by white ants, unless plentifully supplied with water at the time of planting in January; and by red ants in July or August, which last devour the crop unless there is a fall of rain. The cultivation costs 60 rupees per beega, and the average value is about 90 rupees. The richer natives never use the common sugar unless clarified or made into sugar candy. The Europeans in

Sindh generally use Mauritius sugar, which is here called *Cheenee*, under the supposition that it comes from the celestial empire. The juice of the sugar cane is expressed in a very rude kind of mill, and then simply boiled into Goor or Molasses of the very coarsest description. I feel convinced that a sugar manufactory might be established under European or Parsee superintendence, with great advantage, at Roree or Sukkur, as its sugar would be in demand throughout the countries to the north-west, those markets being at present dependent on supplies of the article from Russia and Persia. Now I believe that as good sugar might be manufactured at Sukkur as is made in the Northern Cirkars or Mysore, and at as cheap a rate, if any enterprising firm would take the business in hand; but so long as it is left to the Bunneeahs no improvement can be expected.

Saltpetre abounds throughout Sindh, and especially in parts near Khyrpoor the land appears here and there as if a slight fall of snow had taken place, so completely is the surface covered with a saline efflorescence. Hote Singh, the Mooktyar Kar of Meer Ali Moorad, holds the saltpetre monopoly there, and doubtless makes

a good thing of it. This saline efflorescence is merely scraped away and slightly prepared, when it is packed in bags, and sent to Roree or Sukkur for shipment on the Indus. So little care is taken in packing this valuable article, that an immense wastage occurs in transit, which would be avoided were more serviceable bags employed. The quality of the Sindh saltpetre, and especially that of Khyrpoor, is very superior, for which reason the gunpowder of Sindh was always held in much estimation.

Sulphur abounds in the western hills, where hot springs are numerous.

The alum mines of Sindh are very productive, but for want of fresh water they are less profitable than they might be made.

The pearl fishery of Sindh is thus reported on by the late Mr Macleod, a very able officer:—

"In the salt-water inlets along the entire sea coast of Sindh, a thin-shelled variety of the oyster exists, producing a seed pearl. It is most frequently found on mud-banks left dry at low tides. The pearl is of very little value compared with that produced by the Ceylon and Persian Gulf Fisheries, the price of the latter ranging from rs. 1000 to rs. 1500, whilst

the former seldom realizes more than rs. 15 a tola. From the supposition that it possesses invigorating powers, it is used here chiefly as a medicine. The larger grains are occasionally made use of as personal ornaments; the smaller ones to intermix with the valuable Bahrein pearls, in which manner they are kept in bags by the Bombay merchants, as a means of preserving their lustre.

"About the latter end of the year 1836 the Ameers of Sindh first became aware of the existence of this description of pearl oyster on their coast, by a money tender having been made for the exclusive privilege of fishing them. The banks, called Kenjur, at the entrance to Gharra Creek, were consequently let out for one year for Kashanee rs. 650. The farmer must have profited well, as in the year following they were let for rs. 1300 annually for a consecutive period of two years. Subsequently to operations being commenced, a higher offer was received by the Ameers, who, with that want of faith which characterized them when a prospect of gain presented itself, gave orders for the immediate ejectment of the original holder of the farm. Similar circumstances

operating against the second occupant, he also was ejected; and this process continued, until the sum tendered amounted to rs. 19,000 per annum. The party to whom the farm devolved at this large rent soon discovered that he had entirely overestimated its value; and by ceaseless importunity got released from his contract. The Ameers then ordered the fishery to be conducted on their own account, until, finding it unprofitable, it was discontinued.

"At the close of the year 1839 the Kurrachee Harbour (in the creeks adjoining which the pearl oyster is found) was again let for two years, for rs. 1100; six months afterwards other speculators offered rs. 21,000; it was finally let for rs. 35,000, the contractors relieving the former occupants, and taking possession of the pearls that had been collected by them. These parties, however, failed, but were made to pay rs. 20,000. The Ameers, as at Kenjur, took the management of the fishery, which in three months, it is said, realized between seven and eight thousand rupees,—a doubtful circumstance, as after a short trial it was altogether relinquished by them.

"When the country became a British posses-

sion, the Kenjur Fishery was let by the Collector of Land Revenue for Kashanee rs. 2500 for one year, commencing from the 1st August, 1843, but the contract was not fulfilled. The following year the highest offer made was rs. 2400; but the fishermen objected to work, alleging that as their gains were regulated by the amount of produce, which was insignificant, they could not earn enough for their support. The contractors appealed to the Governor of Sindh, who deciding against them, their contract ceased. The harbour fishery was let out at the same time for rs. 3700 per annum, but owing to a misunderstanding of the terms of the contract it was resumed, and fished by the Collector on account of Government. In one month the sum of rs. 2278 was realized, exclusive of expenses. The fishermen, however, declined to continue the fishery, alleging that they could find no more oysters. It was thought at the time that they had been bribed by the former contractors to make this statement, but experience has since tended to show that it was not altogether incorrect.

"In the month of May, 1845, I was placed in charge of this source of revenue, and having

personally examined the situation of the banks, I found the entire line of coast from Kutch to Kurrachee giving evidence of the existence of the oyster. It appearing to me that several spots might be fished with advantage, I engaged boats and forty divers, but after a month's labour, at what appeared to be the most productive banks, the expenses incurred exceeded the value of the pearls produced.

"The harbour of Kurrachee has been twice since that period let out for rs. 800 and rs. 1300: the contractors, however, in each case, after several examinations, found it advisable to suspend operations, under the conviction that the oysters were too few and too scattered to pay the expense of collecting them.

"In this conclusion I am disposed to concur, and to express my belief that the power vested (during the time of the Ameers) in the hands of the farmer, of pressing the labour of Mohanees and others, and obliging them to work at a nominal rate of wages, constituted the chief value of the pearl fishery.

"When forced labour was abolished by Sir Charles Napier, and men were allowed to take service wherever their interests prompted them,

this source of revenue at once fell, and although several times attempted to be propped up, by farming it to parties fully qualified to take advantage of all circumstances likely to bring the farm to account, it has failed to repay even the necessary outlay.

"This description of oyster is not peculiar to Sindh: it is found in Kutch, Kattywar, and on the western coast of India, where the shell is used by the Portuguese as a substitute for glass, to admit light."

In the year 1844 the existence of extensive salt beds in the neighbourhood of the Ulla Bund was brought under the notice of Sir Charles Napier, then Governor of Sindh, by Captain Baker, Superintendent of Canals and Forests, in the following terms:—

"I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of H. E. the Governor of Sindh, that there are ponds and valleys, connected with the lower part of Pooran, abounding in pure salt: many of the pools near the Ulla Bund contain superficial deposits of this substance, but Mr Hodges, assistant surveyor, who surveyed from Raoma to Wunga bazaar, met with large beds of salt, of a considerable extent, and

five or six feet deep. Should Government consider the subject worthy of attention as a source of revenue, it would appear from Mr Hodges' description that this salt may be obtained in almost any quantity and of the purest kind." Soon afterwards specimens of the deposit were forwarded to Kurrachee by the collector of Hyderabad. These were forwarded to Bombay, but owing to the opposition of the salt merchants there, whose interests might be affected were Sindh salt to get into the market, the subject remained in abeyance."

These beds were subsequently examined by an engineer officer, who estimated the quantity at fifteen hundred millions of tons. The price of common salt in the Kurrachee bazaar is ten annas for a camel load of from five to six maunds; and by retail four pounds for one pice. Sindh is not subject to the salt tax, unless such has been laid on since I left the province, which was the only portion of our Indian empire so exempted, and seemingly without cause, as the Sindhees could well afford it, owing to the low price of that condiment. The Punjaub realizes a revenue from its salt of nearly 15 lakhs of rupees per annum, and were the tax

introduced into Sindh at the Punjaub rate, viz. two rupees a maund, a revenue might be realized from it of nearly five lakhs of rupees. The general average consumption of salt in Sindh has been estimated at about 12 lbs a head per annum.

Rock salt is obtained from Pind Dadun Khan in the Punjaub territories, but there is none to be found in Sindh.

The implements of agriculture in the Khyrpoor territory, indeed throughout Sindh generally, are of the simplest construction. The staple produce of Upper Sindh is wheat; of Middle and Lower Sindh, bajree and jowaree. In the low lands about Larkhana and in the Delta rice is cultivated. Manure is not commonly in use, unless in the lands contiguous to villages. When manured and carefully tilled, the same plot yields one or more crops annually. No rotation of crops is observed. The supply of water for agricultural purposes is either derived from the natural overflow of the Indus, or is artificially supplied by canals. In the higher lands wheels are requisite for raising the water to the level of the fields. The Persian wheel is generally used throughout Sindh

for raising water, though the "*moth*" is occasionally employed, and the latter with the same labour will raise about one-fifth more water. The Persian wheel has, however, its advantages, particularly in gardens, as requiring less space, from the bullocks moving round in a circle. The Persian wheel is of two kinds, the *hoorla*, worked by a single bullock; and the *churke* by two, or a camel. The pots are sustained by grass ropes. The wheels are very coarsely made, whereby the friction is much increased. They cost at first about 15 rupees, and the village carpenter keeps them in repair, and the potter replaces the jars when broken for a small annual payment. The *pairatee* is a wheel that is worked by a man walking on it. Grain is usually sown broadcast. The corn is trodden out by bullocks. The yield of crops varies considerably. In the Sahitti districts of the Hyderabad collectorate from 780 to 1300 lbs per beega is not unknown, whilst in the more southern portion of the same collectorate less than one half that amount is considered a full average crop. In Upper Sindh, strong and well-constructed carts are in use for husbandry purposes, but in Lower Sindh, owing to the nu-

merous water-courses, carts are but little used, and the camel is universally the beast of burden and drawer of water. The Sindh plough is as rudely formed an instrument as can well be conceived. It consists of one rough-hewn pole, slightly pointed with iron, drawn by a camel or two bullocks, and held by one hand. The whole apparatus is very light, and does little more than scratch the surface, after the ground has been well saturated. The seed having been sown, a harrow consisting of a rough beam of heavy wood is dragged over it. In course of the season the grain is weeded with a small spud called a *gumbo*.

Agricultural labourers are paid at harvest time by a proportion of the produce; indeed, all Meer Ali Moorad's servants are paid partly in produce.

The Sindhees go out to field-labour at sunrise and work till noon, when the women take them their food and return to prepare the evening meal. They also take their share in field-labour, such as picking cotton, gleaning, &c. In the evening families sit in conversation until they retire to rest. Beyond an occasional

nautch they have no amusements, and reading and writing are almost unknown.

The crops of wheat and jowaree in Upper Sindh vie in richness with any in the world; they are the great alternate crops in the upper division of the province, whilst rice is the staple of the Delta, yielding enormous crops, but of a coarse description; and that used by Europeans or the more wealthy natives is imported from Bombay. The finest rice is, however, grown about Peshawur, and this latter kind was almost exclusively used by the Ameers and their families.

The dry crops depend entirely on the extent of inundation. Wheat is sown about November or December and reaped in April, being watered from wells, or sown in the lands that have been saturated by the inundation. Jowaree is sown about April and reaped in December, being watered all the time from the river. The latter is a coarse grain, which forms the chief food of the lower orders in Sindh. Its stalks contain a great deal of saccharine matter, and are a very nutritious kind of forage for all descriptions of cattle. These stalks are what in India we call *kirby*, and which are given to

cavalry horses during the monsoon, when green grass is thought rather a washy kind of forage. There is, however, a prejudice against the use of *kirby* for horses, as it is supposed to be productive of farcy. In the rich soil of the valley of the Indus the stalks of jowaree sometimes attain the height of sixteen feet, and the head weighs three-quarters of a pound or upwards. This crop is thought to draw the soil very much, as after jowaree they always allow it to lie fallow for one season. The other dry grains are barley, bajree, linseed, castor oil, sesamum or til, and mustard. The oil expressed from the latter seed is in general use for all purposes in Sindh, and its odour is most abominable.

Every encouragement has been afforded to the cultivation of flax and linseed, and fine crops of this plant are now raised in the districts under Government, whose efforts to extend the cultivation have been successful; but it appears that the fibre of the Sindh flax does not find that favour in the market which was expected, and that the fibre which has produced the highest price is that which has been shipped in its natural state, and whereon the least labour had been expended. The growth of this

plant for linseed will, it is supposed, always remain remunerative, and the demand seems to increase as the cultivation extends. Little attention seems, however, to have been paid to its production in Meer Ali Moorad's country, but mustard seed is raised there in great quantities, and the crops appeared exceedingly fine.

Several attempts have been made to introduce the American cotton into Sindh, but always without success, as the plants were invariably attacked with blight, and the experiment has at length been abandoned, and the cotton establishment discharged.

Hemp is cultivated to a very great extent in the Khyrpoor territory, as, indeed, in every part of Sindh, for the sake of its seed, which has an intoxicating effect, and is used in a variety of ways: viz. *Bhanga, sukho* or *sawia*, prepared from the small leaves, husks, and seeds of hemp, ground and mixed up with water and other additions. This is, I believe, the most general way of using it, and is what the European soldiers call "Green Punch."

Ganjo. The inflorescence of the hemp before the gum has been expressed; smoked in a water-pipe till a contraction of the throat is felt.

Churrus. The gum of the hemp made into a paste, and generally smoked like *ganjo*, but occasionally eaten, prepared as a sweetmeat.

All these three preparations are considered highly aphrodisiac, and the use thereof frequently produces madness, delirium tremens, catalepsy, and other diseases. It is probable that the numerous instances of impotency to be met with in Sindh may be traced to the universal use of these stimulants, especially by the lower orders. On my first arrival at Khyrpoor it was rumoured that I was a medical man, and very numerous were the applications made to me by men in the prime of life who were suffering from early debauchery.

The paper manufactured in Sindh is of very inferior quality; it is prepared from old fishing nets and wrought hemp, which are beaten up in water, with the charcoal obtained from *Ishkar* and lime; this is done in a pit large enough for a man to work in. A heavy wooden hammer is the instrument employed, with a horizontal beam. This is worked by two men treading on the beam, whilst a third in the pit is occupied in placing the material under the hammer. These men are hired by the manufacturer for

about twenty days at a time, but he makes the paper himself from the above preparation made into cakes. These are picked in pieces and put in a cistern of clear water. The manufacturer sits on the edge, and immerses a wooden frame upon which is spread a fine roll of thin slips of bamboo, opened out by means of two pieces of wood at either side. Upon this the particles are allowed to settle, and the lateral pieces of wood being removed, the bamboo roll is inverted upon a clean board, and being rolled up leaves the sheet of paper upon the board. After the paper is dried, it is rubbed and polished with a stone; a better description of paper is made from pieces of China and Europe paper beaten up instead of hemp. From twelve to fourteen quires of paper can be made in a day. The average price is from three to four quires per rupee, according to quality.

The dyes of Sindh are very good, and the colours permanent; the only colours in use are red, saffron, green, yellow, and dark blue. These are obtained from the safflower, indigo, iskhar, limes, pomegranate skins, lime, oil, tamarisk berries, and camel's dung, which are all productions of the country; but turmeric, alum,

and madder are imported. As a specimen of the process I give the following receipt:—

Red dye. Twelve chuttaks of bitter oil are mixed with the same quantity of iskhar, and one pound of camel's dung. The cloth is placed therein for four days, and then dried in the sun for eleven days. It is then cleaned, and put into water with two chuttaks of tamarisk berries, after which it is again dried, and then put into an earthen vessel containing two chuttaks of alum, and again dried and washed. Twelve chuttaks of madder are then put into a large copper vessel with twenty seers of water, and boiled. The cloth is placed in this until well coloured, and then finally dried and cleaned.

END OF VOL. I.

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